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THE TIMES

No. 65,392

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7 1995

QC tells Rosemary West jury of discoveries 'more terrible than words can express'

Tears as horrific case is outlined

By Richard Duce and Bill Frost

ROSEMARY WEST wept in the dock of Winchester Crown Court yesterday as a jury heard how she and her husband killed ten girls and young women to satisfy "depraved and violent" desires.

The eight men and four women were told by the prosecuting counsel that they would hear evidence that was "horrific and harrowing". In February 1994 excavations beneath the West home at 25 Cromwell Street revealed discoveries "more terrible than words can express".

Mrs West, 41, denies 10 charges of murder. The alleged victims included her daughter Heather, 16, who disappeared in June 1987 and whose dismembered body was found beneath the patio.

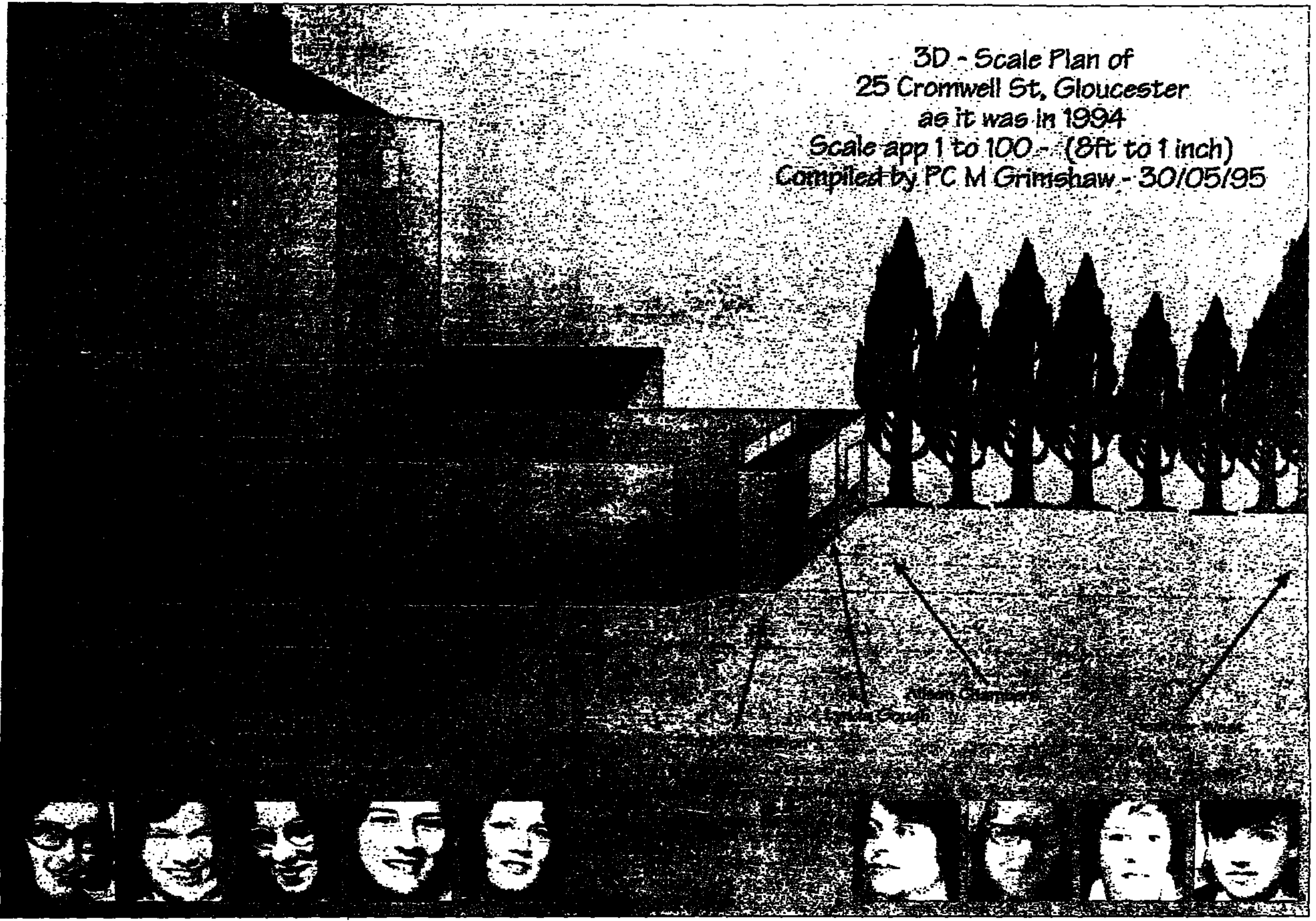
"The police continued digging. Skeletal remains of eight other young women were under the ground of the home of Mr and Mrs West," Brian Leveson, QC, said.

"Each one had been dismembered, heads had been decapitated, each was dumped without dignity or respect within small areas three feet underground in the garden, the cellar and the bathroom.

"Every one of the girls has been identified. Life at 25 Cromwell Street has been explored. Other girls who came and went over the years have spoken of assaults and degrading sexual activities.

"The upshot is this case. Over a period of many years, especially between 1972 and 1979, girls staying at or visiting 25 Cromwell Street, or who were enticed or simply abducted, were taken there for sexual abuse — both by Rosemary and Frederick West, in a most depraved and most appalling way.

"Those whom the Wests believed would not complain, lived. Those who were believed to pose a threat — perhaps because of their injuries or perhaps because they might talk to police and report what happened — did not. For them the option was death . . . their last moments on earth were as objects of sexual depravity of this woman and her husband, now dead."



3D - Scale Plan of
25 Cromwell St, Gloucester
as it was in 1994
Scale app 1 to 100 - (8ft to 1 inch)
Compiled by PC M Grimshaw - 30/05/95

A prosecution drawing shows where women were found buried at 25 Cromwell Street

Rosemary West: denies murdering 10 girls

At a flat in Midland Road where the couple had once lived police found the body of Charmaine West, the daughter of Frederick West's first wife, Rena, under the kitchen floor. In a field near Much Marcle in Hereford and Worcester they found the bodies of Rena and a girl, Anne McFall.

Rosemary West, the Crown said, was responsible for the deaths of each of those named: the murder of Charmaine West, 8, between May 1 and December 31, 1971; Lynda Carole Gough, 19, between April 1, 1973 and February 27, 1994; Carol Ann Cooper, 15, between November 9, 1973 and February 27, 1994; Lucy Katherine Partington, 21, between December 26, 1973 and February 27, 1994; Therese Siegenthaler, 21, between April 13, 1974 and February 27, 1994; Shirley Hubbard, 15, between November 13, 1974 and February 27, 1994; Juanita Mott, 18, between April 10, 1975 and February 27, 1994; Shirley Ann Robinson, 18, between May 1, 1978 and February 27, 1994; Alison Chambers, 17, between August 1, 1979 and February 27, 1994; and Heather West, 16, between June 1, 1987 and February 27, 1994.

The victims came from widely different backgrounds. Lynda Gough, 19, had been visiting a boyfriend who lodged with the Wests before she disappeared. Her mother's inquiries drew her to 25 Cromwell Street.

Between November 1973 and April 1975 five girls were buried at 25 Cromwell Street — Carol Ann Cooper, Lucy Partington, Therese Siegenthaler, Shirley Hubbard and Juanita Mott. Their bodies were found "buried roughly in a circle underneath the cellar clockwise in order of their deaths," Mr Levenson said.

They all appeared to have suffered "a prolonged campaign of sexual violence".

Carol Cooper had run away from a children's home in 1973 and met her fate while taking a bus. Lucy Partington fell into the Wests' clutches taking a bus from a friend's house.

Therese Siegenthaler, a Swiss student, disappeared while going from London to visit a friend in Ireland. Shirely Hubbard, 15, ran away from a children's home. Juanita Mott lodged at Cromwell Street before she met her death as did Shirley-Anne Robinson, who was nine months pregnant by Fred West. Alison Chambers had run away from a home.

Mr Leveson said: "I make it clear from the outset that there is no direct evidence of anyone — Frederick West or Rosemary West — killing any one of these girls. By the very nature of the allegation of murder within the private quarters of Cromwell Street such evidence is unlikely. The evidence is circumstantial."

Frederick West, 53, was found hanged in his prison cell last New Year's Day.

'It is not suggested that she acted alone," Mr Leveson said.

"At the core of this case is the relationship between Frederick and Rosemary West: what they each knew about each other, what they did together and how far each was prepared to go. Much of what follows can be explained in the context that both were obsessed with sex . . . Frederick West had found the perfect companion."

The West trial, pages 4, 5

Middle-income tax cut hopes

Tax cuts for middle-income earners will be one of the main priorities of Kenneth Clarke's Budget in November.

The cuts will be aimed at those who have been pushed for the first time into the top 40 per cent tax bracket since the last election.........Page 2

Claes charges

Belgium's highest court has told parliament that Willy Claes, the Nato Secretary-General, should face charges in connection with the alleged payment of bribes by an Italian helicopter firm.

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Prince wins profits from banned book

By Lin Jenkins

THE Prince of Wales is to receive all the profits from a book by his former housekeeper wherever it is published, a High Court judge ruled yesterday.

Wendy Berry, who worked at Highgrove House for nine years, published her *Diary of a Housekeeper* in the United States and Canada this year, in breach of a worldwide ban.

The Prince was yesterday granted final summary judgement, banning publication of the book worldwide and ordering Mrs Berry to hand him all the profits from sales and related newspaper and magazine articles. The order named one article which appeared in the American magazine *Star* under the headline "Sexy Secrets of Di's bedroom" in August this year.

Mr Justice Potter granted the order after hearing that Mrs Berry had breached her contract of employment where she made a worldwide undertaking in perpetuity not to discuss her time at the house. The book is believed to have sold more than 90,000 copies in the United States and Canada and there are plans for publication in Italy, Germany, Australia and Japan.

Mr Justice Potter also ordered that she hand over all originals and copies of any diaries, manuscripts, typescripts, books or drafts of books containing details concerning any member of the Royal Family or their guests or visitors.

Mrs Berry, who left Highgrove in 1993, is understood to be living with relatives in Canada.

☐ **New York:** Mrs Berry's American publisher said yesterday that his client would keep the profits from the US edition (James Bone writes).

Lyle Stuart, the president of Barricade Books, said that Mrs Berry would be compelled to turn over the profits only if she goes back to Britain, but that she had no intention of doing so.

He said that the Prince of Wales was "a hollow-head who contributes nothing to society."

INSIDE

Simon Jenkins knows what he dislikes about African "art"
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Anna Blundy looks spinsterhood in the face at 25
Magazine, page 89

Meet the stars of Britain's new teen soap
1015, page 6

Win a two-week holiday at the source of the Blue Nile
Page 43

11 pages of personal finance advice
Weekend Money, Section 2

Clinton pledge on Bosnia peace force

By Martin Fletcher and Michael Evans

PRESIDENT CLINTON gave his personal guarantee yesterday that American troops would play a key role in implementing a peace settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina — with or without congressional approval.

Pre-empting expected opposition from Republicans, Mr Clinton said: "We want and welcome congressional support but in Bosnia as elsewhere, if the US does not lead, the job will not be done."

The Pentagon is working on plans to send a division of 25,000 American troops from US Army bases in Europe. The most likely unit is the American 1st Armoured Division in Germany, which is equipped with M1A2 Abrams tanks.

Britain is considering committing up to 15,000 troops for the Nato-led peace implementation force, after the announcement of a ceasefire and an expected settlement to the 42-month war.

America, Britain and France, which will supply the bulk of the force, are agreed that heavily armed troops with tanks will be needed for the new mission. The French have AMX10 tanks in Bosnia.

American diplomatic sources said that Washington's intention was to contribute a force that would be sufficiently robust to deal with every kind of confrontation.

The Nato headquarters selected to command the implementation force is expected to be the Allied Rapid Reaction Corps's mobile war headquarters, commanded by a British general, Lieutenant-General Sir Mike Walker. Elements of 1st UK Armoured Division, also in Germany, and equipped with Challenger tanks, could be included in the force.

As Mr Clinton spoke, Nato defence ministers were in Williamsburg, Virginia, deciding whose troops would police which parts of Bosnia. William Perry, the US Defence Secretary, suggested the deployment could be required as early as next month.

Push for ceasefire, page 15

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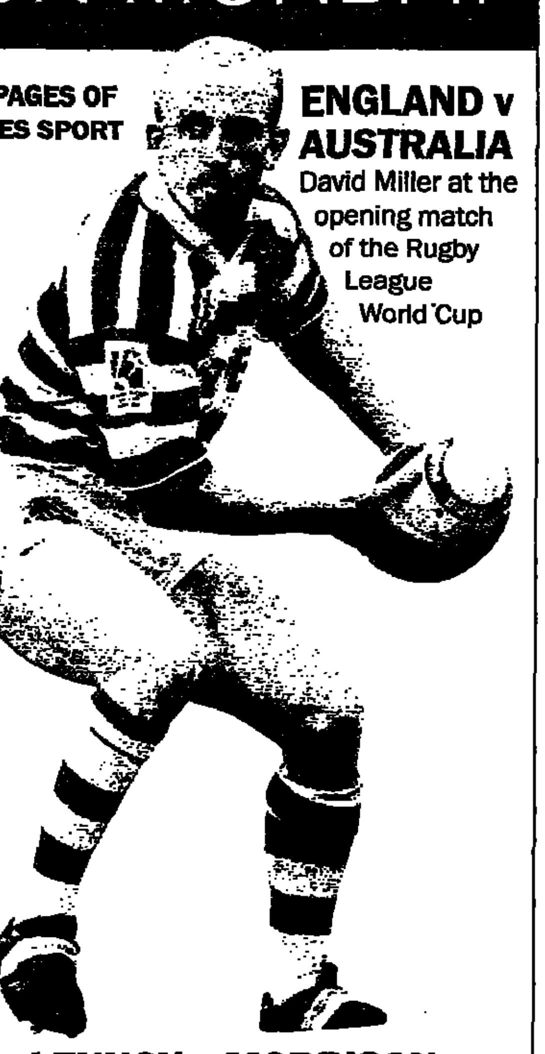
THE TIMES ON MONDAY



11 PAGES OF TIMES SPORT

ENGLAND v AUSTRALIA

David Miller at the opening match of the Rugby League World Cup

LENNOX v MORRISON

Srikumar Sen in Atlantic City to see Lennox Lewis take on Tommy Morrison

MATTHEW PARRIS ON MONDAY

PLUS:
William Rees-Mogg, Lynne Truss and Peter Riddell

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Labour glory loses something in translation

MATTHEW PARRIS

POLITICAL SKETCH

DISZIPLIN. Mut. Entschlossenheit. Eherlichkeit … That was Tony Blair at the climax of his Tuesday speech — translated into German. We know this because his office has issued a special German version with his photograph on the cover.

Neues Labour. Neues Britannien. Eine erneuerte Partei.

Somehow, it strikes a chill. The chill, no more than a passing shiver, resurfaced during John Prescott's rallying performance yesterday. In pride of place was a passage about smashing the fat cats. It carried a measure of menace and glee, and met a level of cheering, which may propel a tiny cloud of anxiety, no bigger than a man's hand, into our otherwise sunny recollection of this conference.

Still, Prescott's was a fine, thumping, funny speech. Even after a triumphant week it isn't over until the fat man hollers. Very much the Les Dawson of the Labour Party, John Prescott dares, and wins. A moment to savour was watching the signer for the deaf trying to convey a passage in which Humphrey the cat is dragged back through the Downing Street cat flap, "screeching and scratching and spitting every inch of the way". On reaching the cat flap, the signer nearly did himself an injury. Prescott's wife, Pauline, watched doe-eyed. She had arrived a little late. We had heard earlier that uniformed officers had been briefly called into the foyer. It may have been the fashion police going in to break up Mrs Prescott's hair.

"We're on our way!" bellowed her husband. The leader sat not yards away with that papery skin and thin, strained, brittle smile. The fat man leads the shouting; the control-freak watches. "Anständige Menschen, gute Menschen. Patrioten … Das ist unser Volk," says Blair's text. Prescott launched into a bullying attack on a journalist. It was meant to amuse. It went too far. Again; that chill.

Then they sang the slaves' chorus from *Nabucco*. Disziplin. The next song, a pop number, went: "Movin' on up!" Blair's spin-doctors may not realise that in full the lyrics continue: "Who d'you think you are? This time you've gone too far."

And, after *The Red Flag*, everybody sashayed out. Leaving, I pushed past the hungry-faced demonstrators who used to be found inside Labour conferences but these days press noses to the glass. Within you meet Norman Tebbit and the tribunes of industry, come to deal.

Und in der Fusion von Wirtschaft und Technologie, da liegt die Zukunft.

Do you remember the last pages of Orwell's *Animal Farm*? The pigs have taken control of the humbler animals, occupy the farmhouse — renamed New Animal Farm? — and invite the humans, former foes, for drinks. Napoleon, the pigs' leader, makes a speech …

"He, too, he said, was happy that the period of misunderstanding was at an end. There had been rumours … that there was something subversive and even revolutionary in the outlook of himself and his colleagues. Nothing could be further from the truth!"

The humbler animals press noses to the glass:

"No question what had happened to the faces of the pigs. The creatures outside looked from pig to man and from man to pig again. But already it was impossible to say which was which."

Ihr Nachbar ist mein Nachbar. Das ist der echte Patriotismus eines Landes.

Clarke to aim tax cuts at middle-income earners in Budget

By Peter Riddell

TAX cuts for middle-income earners will be a high priority in Kenneth Clarke's Budget in late November. They will be directed at the many people who have been pushed into the top 40 per cent tax bracket for the first time since the last election.

Senior ministers involved in pre-Budget discussions believe that this Middle England group, earning about £28,000 to £32,000 a year, should be given particular help. They have suffered much of the burden of tax increases of recent years needed to pay for the recession.

Over 650,000 more people are paying higher rate income tax compared with 1991-92, bringing the figure to a record 2.2 million. This is much larger than would normally be expected as earnings rise over time and reflects the freezing of the upper-rate threshold.

The Prime Minister and his political advisers are sensitive to the complaints of these new high-rate payers — middle-ranking executives and professionals who include many traditional Tory supporters.

The 40 per cent rate will be left unchanged in the Budget, but the higher-rate threshold is expected to be raised by much more than inflation to take many people out of the top tax band.

The starting threshold for higher-rate income tax was left unchanged at £23,700 of taxable income for four years until the last Budget introduced a small rise, in line with inflation, to £24,300.

When personal allowances are taken into account, this means that the minimum earnings on which anyone now pays the 40 per cent rate is £27,825, or £29,545 for anyone with a married couple's allowance. This is less than 1½ times average earnings.

Raising the upper-rate threshold could be much cheaper than an across-the-board cut in income tax. But the scope for cuts in the Budget is still uncertain since the Cabinet's public spending committee, chaired by the Chancellor, is in the middle of difficult talks with departments on next year's spending. The committee is finding it hard to secure savings from the social security, environment and transport budgets to finance extra spending on schools and tax cuts.

The Treasury's task has been complicated by the slowdown in the economy and the consequent rise in public borrowing. The official line is still "if" there are tax cuts rather than "when", but most ministers expect at least a start next month to redress the big tax increases of the past two years, with hints of more to come in a November 1996 Budget ahead of a spring election.

Tories consider wider education vouchers

By John O'Leary, Education Editor

MINISTERS are considering two schemes to make vouchers the "big idea" on education in the Tories' election manifesto.

Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, is championing learning credits for sixth-forms and further education. Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, is examining proposals from the Conservative National Policy Group on Higher Education for higher education vouchers. The result could be "top-up" fees for university courses.

For many years, vouchers were fashionable only on the Conservative Right. Their introduction in nursery schools is seen as an opportunity to develop a system for mainstream education. Delegates to next week's Tory conference will advocate both schemes.

Consultation is under way over learning credits, seen by the Treasury as a way of driving down costs, after the publication of the White Paper on competitiveness.

☐ Playgroups have won their battle to qualify for the full nursery voucher to be introduced next Easter, the Pre-School Learning Alliance said yesterday. They had threatened to boycott the scheme after being only half the value of the £1,100 voucher.

MARK LARGE

Jodie Kidd wearing a lace dress by Anna Molinari

Thin model shocks Milan

It wasn't the clothes which shocked the audience at the start of Milan Fashion Week, but the extraordinarily thin supermodel who was modelling them. Jodie Kidd, a blonde 17-year-old, is causing a sensation at the Italian collections because although she is six-feet tall she weighs only eight stone. Miss Kidd, a descendant of Lord Beaverbrook, the newspaper tycoon, was discovered by a fashion photographer in Barbados, where her family has a home.

Setback for Welsh rugby stadium

Plans to build a national rugby stadium for Wales suffered a blow when the Millennium Commission, which hands out National Lottery cash, rejected a draft submission by rugby officials and Welsh civic leaders.

The £100 million scheme is for a superstadium on the existing two-ground site in Cardiff city centre with a new club ground in the city's docklands.

Two die in feud

A feud over sheep worrying led to a shotgun rampage in which two men died and two others were injured at Cilfynydd, Mid-Glamorgan. Geraint Jones, 59, died in hospital. The suspected gunman surrendered to police.

Hospitals to close

The two British military hospitals in Germany are to close, because the number of personnel there have been cut by half. Servicemen and their families at Rinteln and Wegberg will now have to use the German health service.

School safe

The Henrietta Barnett girls grammar in Hampstead, which is fighting an eviction notice, appeared secure after Barnet council agreed to a compulsory purchase order. The school is at the top of national exam tables.

Currie clash

Police were called to Staffordshire University to eject a Labour supporter and Edwina Currie, Conservative MP for Derbyshire South, after a 40-minute argument at a recruitment stall. Mrs Currie left before the police arrived.

Opera shortfall

Scottish Opera, in a cash crisis, is proposing to work part-time and only north of the border. It needs £750,000 next year, rising to £1.3 million in 1998. The alternative was disbanding the orchestra. Arts Diary, page 17

Beaten Lamont pledges to fight on for new seat

By Alice Thomson
and Nicholas Wood

NORMAN LAMONT promised yesterday to continue his search for a safe seat at the next election after narrowly losing his duel with his Commons neighbour Richard Tracey for Kingston and Surbiton.

"I will continue to look for a seat in Parliament. It is my wish to continue in public life," he said after being beaten by the former sports minister whose constituency of Surbiton forms the main part of the new seat.

In a BBC radio interview, the former Chancellor conceded that his past disloyalty to John Major could have played a part in his defeat, but added: "I am loyal to the Conservative Party, loyal to its policies and loyal also to what I believe." How Mr Lamont conducts himself at next week's party conference may influence his chances of finding a replacement for his Kingston upon Thames seat.

☐ A 14-year-old boy who expressed the vain hope of becoming the youngest speaker at next week's Tory conference will be the subject of an emergency meeting of Tottenham Conservative Association this weekend. Justin Hinchcliffe, who lives in a council flat with his mother and five-year-old brother, made a series of right-wing statements in the press and radio interviews, embarrassing his local association. Conservative Central Office was bemused by reports that he would be the youngest speaker. "He has not even applied to speak. He is just a child for God's sake," one exasperated official said. "Why did anyone take him seriously?"

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Twins spend £75m to acquire one of London's grand hotels from Trafalgar House

Reclusive tycoons realise 30-year dream to buy Ritz

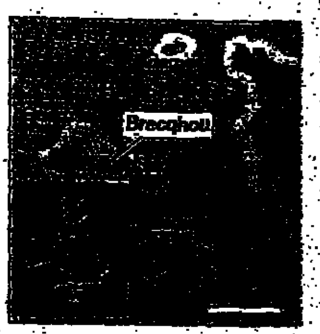
BY ANDREW PIERCE
ALEXANDRA FREAN
AND MARCUS BINNEY

THE reclusive tycoon twins, David and Frederick Barclay, have bought the Ritz Hotel in a surprise £75 million cash deal. Contracts were exchanged yesterday morning at a breakfast meeting in the City between representatives of the brothers and the hotel's owners, Trafalgar House.

On the same day that the Ritz sale was announced, the identical twins emerged as potential owners of *The Scotsman*. They are thought to be on the shortlist of six bidders for Scotland's most prestigious newspaper.

The brothers, aged 60, who own *The European* newspaper, have an aversion to publicity and, characteristically, refused to talk about their acquisition of The Ritz, which is one of London's grandest old hotels. An associate said, however: "This is the fulfilment of a 30-year dream. They have always wanted to buy the Ritz. Now they have done it."

The brothers are 15th in the *Sunday Times* guide of Britain's richest 500 people and are building a £40 million hideaway on the uninhabited Channel Island of Brecqhou. Next year they will move into the mock-gothic fortress, designed by the traditional architect Quinlan Terry, which will be inaccessible to the outside world. The Barclays bought the island for £2.3 million in September 1993.



David and Frederick Barclay, who built up their estimated £500 million fortune from buying boarding houses and converting them into hotels, will make a number of changes to the elegant interior and management at The Ritz, which made a £3.78 million profit last year.

The hotel, built by the Swiss-born hotelier César Ritz, opened in 1906. It was bought by Trafalgar House in 1976. The group has been selling off its hotels chain to raise cash but The Ritz was the last to go. Officials of Ellerman, the Barclays' investment arm, were not available for comment yesterday. A spokesman for Trafalgar House said: "Completion of the sale will take place in early November and the proceeds will be used to offset existing borrowings of the Trafalgar House group."

The brothers own or have had stakes in six London casinos, including The Ritz, and Automotive Financial Group, one of Britain's biggest car dealerships. Their first hotel venture was the Howard, on the Embankment in London.

They are understood to have secretly visited the Edinburgh headquarters of Thomson Regional Newspapers for detailed takeover discussions of *The Scotsman*. Their entry into the race for *The Scotsman* has surprised media observers but the brothers hope the fact that their parents were born in Scotland will stand them in good stead.

The Barclays rescued the loss-making *European* newspaper in January 1992, after the death of its founder, Robert Maxwell and they have continued to inject cash into the paper. Ownership of *The Scotsman* would provide them with a respectable entrée into society. It would also provide a steady flow of cash. The Edinburgh titles have a turnover of around £49 million, and make an annual profit of £8.5 million. In 1983 they bought Ellerman Lines, a loss making shipping firm, which brought with it two breweries, worth more than £70 million.

César Ritz, left, founded The Ritz in 1906. Last year it made a profit of £3.78m but the Barclay twins are planning management changes

The brothers were born in London of Scottish parents and brought up in a Hammersmith town house. Their father was a travelling salesman who died when they were 12. They became painters and decorators when they left school before they moved into property.

David met his wife, Zoe Newton, at ballroom dancing lessons. She became the National Dairy Council's milk girl at the age of 18 but the ensuing publicity is thought to have put David Barclay off publicity for life. Frederick has also been married.

The brothers, who wear matching pinstripe suits, are described by business associates as inseparable. They live in relative seclusion in a waterfront apartment in Monte Carlo, where they own the Mirabeau Hotel. Shirley Bassey is a neighbour. At weekends they relax on their 160-foot yacht, *Klementine*, which has a crew of 14. When they leave the tax haven of Monte Carlo for Brecqhou, the tycoons will pay less tax than the average bus driver.

On Brecqhou a team of 300 builders has worked around the clock, in eight-hour shifts, under huge arc lights and protective covers to complete their new home. The shelters were put up to provide essential weather protection on the windswept island and to keep prying eyes at bay. Every contractor has signed a secrecy contract. Secrecy will be preserved whatever the cost. An artist's impression of Terry's design was published in a national newspaper last year but when it was republished in the *Guernsey Evening Press* the Barclays sued for breach of copyright.

The half-built castle, with central courtyard and towers, dominates the 80-acre plateau of land which rises 200 feet from the sea. Residents in Guernsey and Sark are able to train binoculars on the island to catch a glimpse of their neighbours, who are wealthy even by Channel Island standards.

Three years ago they entered the controversy over the ownership of Canova's sculpture, *The Three Graces*, by offering to match the £7.6 million bid made by the Getty Museum in California. In a rare interview David Barclay said: "There is no incentive for us to talk about our business affairs."

Tempus, page 28

Tallulah Bankhead and Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, were regulars at The Ritz

Stylish reputation dulled by loss of the glitterati

BY JOHN YOUNG

THE RITZ epitomised luxury from the day that César Ritz, a Swiss entrepreneur, opened his hotel on May 24, 1906. Halfway along Piccadilly, on the corner of St James's and next to Green Park, it was ideally placed to attract the glitterati of British society and wealthy visitors from abroad.

At 10s 6d (52½p) a night for a single room it was at the top end of the Edwardian market. But more than a place to stay, it was *the* place to be seen — lunching, taking afternoon tea, dancing to the latest tunes and, then as now, ostentatiously swilling champagne.

It was a curious mixture of the decorous and the decadent. A rigid dress code required gentlemen to wear jackets and ties in public, but no one doubted that a great deal of less seemly behaviour took place in private. During both world wars it was a place for young officers on leave to blow their money on drink and girls, a memory to carry back to the mud and squalor of the front.

Edward VII, as Prince of Wales, was The Ritz's greatest patron. Regular guests have included the Duke of Windsor and Wallis Simpson, Tallulah Bankhead, Noel Coward, Charlie Chaplin, Winston Churchill and Aristotle Onassis. The late Earl of Carnarvon kept a permanent suite to entertain his *amours*, and the present Marquis of Tavistock was born there.

In recent years, however, the hotel is considered to have lost much of its glamour. The building was saved from possible demolition by being listed in 1966, but the ballroom became a casino and Egon Ronay publicly regretted having described it as the best hotel in London.

Yesterday morning amid the gilt, the pink chairs and carpets and the chandeliers, staff seemed almost to outnumber visitors. But a public relations person said business was booming, nearly every room was occupied and consequently the staff were far too busy to talk to *The Times*.

Parents fly Atlantic three times to reach wedding

BY KATE ALDERSON

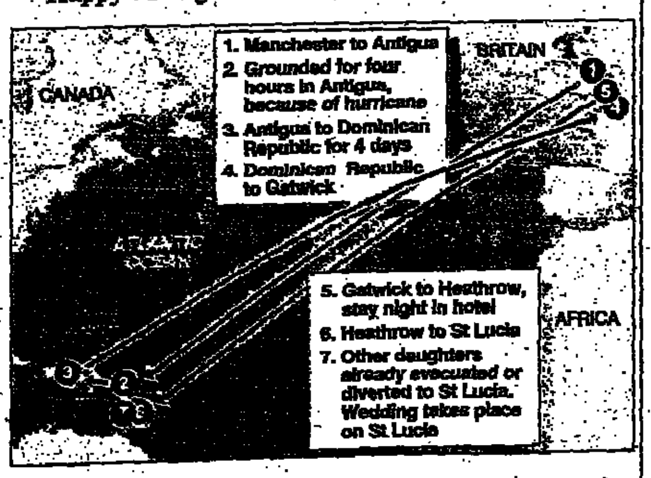
A COUPLE'S flight to their daughter's wedding in the Caribbean turned into a 12,000 mile, six-day journey in which they crossed the Atlantic three times and island-hopped to dodge storms and hurricanes.

Glen and Linda Thomas, of Rotherham, South Yorkshire, set out from Manchester Airport for Antigua. They arrived to be told the island was being evacuated to the Dominican Republic because a hurricane was approaching.

During a four-hour delay at the airport, they discovered that their daughter, Karren, 28, and fiancé Neil Tappin, 30 — also from Rotherham — had switched to St Lucia to escape the storms. They had flown out a week earlier.

When Mr Thomas, 50, and his wife, 49, arrived in the Dominican Republic, they were told there were no direct flights to St Lucia, and their best chance was to fly back to England and start again.

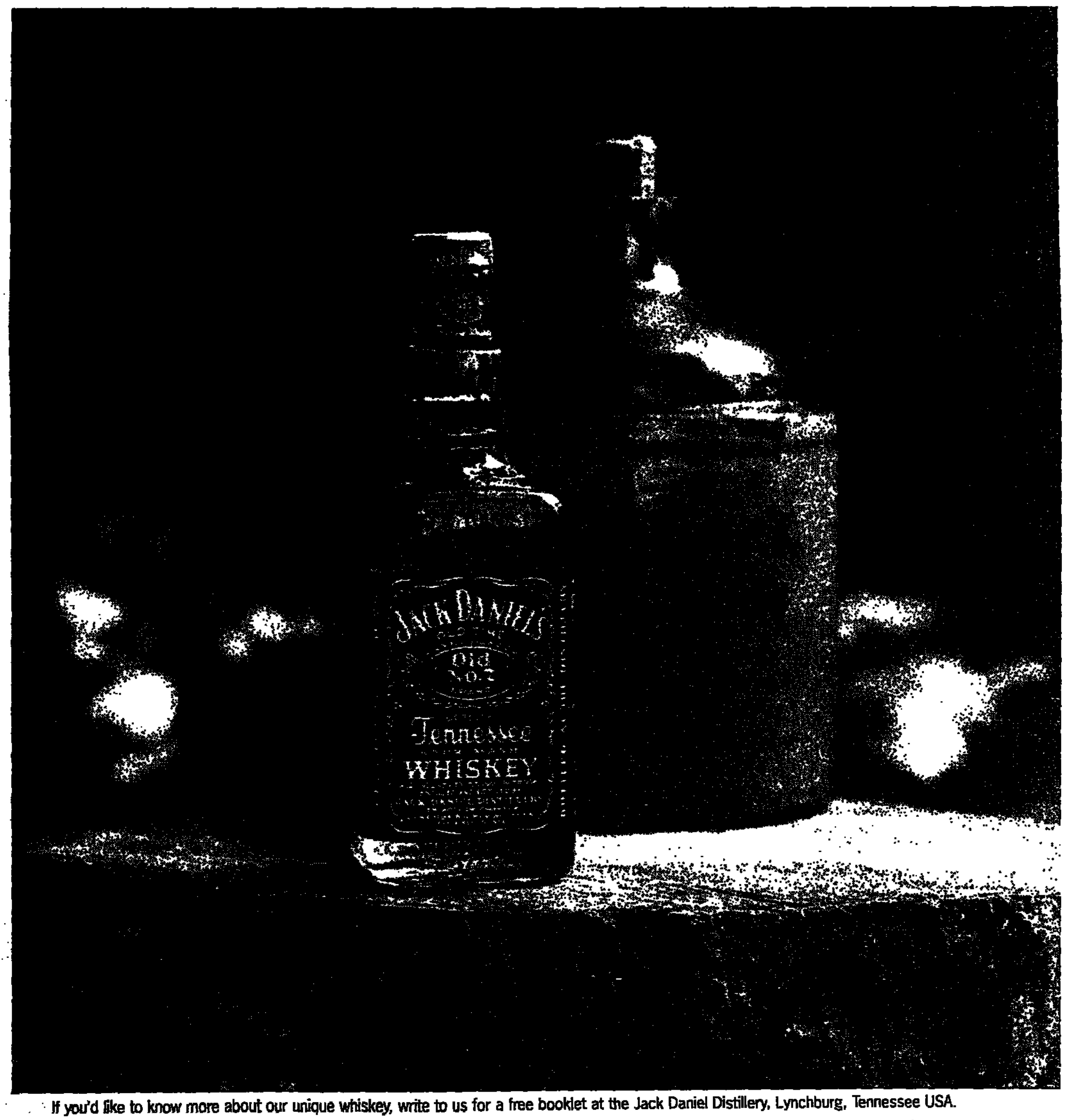
Happy ending: the Thomases are left of the bride


CANADA
BRITAIN
AFRICA
1. Manchester to Antigua
2. Grounded for four hours in Antigua, because of hurricane
3. Antigua to Dominican Republic for 4 days
4. Dominican Republic to Gatwick
5. Gatwick to Heathrow, stay night in hotel
6. Heathrow to St Lucia
7. Other daughters already evacuated or diverted to St Lucia. Wedding takes place on St Lucia

After a three-day wait for the next available flight, they flew into Gatwick and transferred to Heathrow to fly to St Lucia. That flight was delayed eight hours so they stayed overnight in a hotel. The next morning, five days after they had originally set off from Rotherham, they crossed the Atlantic for the third time, touching down in Barbados and Trinidad before they arrived in St Lucia — only to discover that the beach wedding was to be further delayed by another storm.

Mr Thomas, a steelworker, said: "I was determined to be at my daughter's wedding. When we eventually arrived it was very emotional. I told Karren: 'We've been to the ends of the earth for you'."

Mrs Thomas, a sales assistant, said: "We spent 28 hours and 35 minutes airborne. We took off and landed at nine airports." Another daughter had been lucky — her original flight was diverted mid-air to St Lucia. The parents' holiday cost £2,000. Two days after the wedding, it was time to fly home.



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'The picture which I shall describe is, in places, horrific and harrowing,' QC tells jury:

Court told of depravity at 25 Cromwell Street

By Richard Duce
and Bill Frost

Brian Leveson, QC: leading prosecution

Richard Ferguson, QC: will defend Mrs West

ROSEMARY WEST was brought into the dock at Winchester Crown Court at 10.30am yesterday to hear Brian Leveson, QC, begin his opening address to the jury before a packed courtroom.

He said the Crown alleged that Mrs West was responsible for the deaths of each of those named in the ten counts of the indictment. "It is not suggested that she acted alone," Mr Leveson said. As for the nine bodies unearthed at Cromwell Street, she acted with her husband.

"I make it clear from the outset that there is no direct evidence of anyone — Frederick West or Rosemary West — killing any one of these girls. Nobody says 'I saw Frederick stab' or 'I saw Rosemary strangle.' The evidence is circumstantial," he said. "Having heard the evidence and decided what you are sure is correct you will then decide what conclusions or influences you are sure you can properly draw from it.

"The picture which I shall describe, revealed by the evidence and the material including photographs you will see, is, in places, horrific and harrowing. I do not do this to shock or provoke sympathy but so that you have the entire picture against which to decide the case."

CHARMAINE WEST

Mr Leveson said Mrs West was born Rosemary Pauline Letts on November 29, 1953, and grew up near Cheltenham. She first met Frederick West in 1969 when she was 15. At the time he was married *but separated from his wife,* Rena, and was living alone, looking after his step-daughter, Charmaine. He and Rosemary moved to a flat at 25 *Midland Road, Gloucester,* and by early 1970 she was pregnant with her first child, Heather.

"There were problems very quickly. *In November 1970* Fred West was arrested for offences of dishonesty and remained in custody. He was sentenced to ten months in prison and released on June 24, 1971.

"At the age of 17 it cannot have been easy for Rosemary West to cope with Charmaine, only ten years younger, and there is clear evidence that Charmaine was greatly disliked by Rosemary West."

Shirley Giles and her daughter Tracey, who lived in the top flat, recalled that Mrs West often said she could no longer cope with Charmaine. Mr Leveson said. "One morning Mrs Giles sent Tracey to borrow a cup of milk. Tracey saw Charmaine standing on a wooden chair with her hands tied behind her back with a belt. Mrs West had a large wooden spoon in her hand and it looked as though she was about to hit her. Tracey was very upset and Mrs Giles later spoke to Mrs West about it. She replied that Charmaine had been naughty and had to be punished."

The jury was told that Mrs Giles said Mrs West complained that she had had *enough of Charmaine and* could not wait to be rid of her. Charmaine was alive at the beginning of June 1971 because she appears in a school photograph. But by the end of the school term on July 21 she is marked as having left.

"It is impossible to date exactly when Charmaine vanished," Mr Leveson said. Mrs Giles had moved away, but took her daughters back to see Charmaine. "Rosemary West didn't allow her beyond the hall and told her that Charmaine's mother had turned up and had taken her away to Bristol. She had not gone to live with her mother if it was before the school photograph; *she was still at Midland Road at least for a while;* if afterwards, she was dead and buried in the cellar."

In March 1994 police obtained a warrant to search Midland Road. In May they found the body of a child. Forensic scientists believed it to be Charmaine.

> ‘Mrs West said she was fed up *with Charmaine* and could not wait to be rid of her’

"Mrs West could not have believed that she had gone away with her mother never, ever to be heard of again. *What happened to her clothes,* the special things that little girls treasure? They were not buried with her and must have been destroyed. You can be sure, submit the Crown, that she was killed."

Mr Leveson asked the jury to consider when Charmaine died. She was about until early June and had gone by July 21. Did she die before or after June 24, when Mr West left prison? "If it was before June 24 it could hardly have been Frederick West.

"It was Rosemary West who had demonstrated a violent dislike of the child. She was under pressure looking after these two children with her baby, Heather. She had the opportunity and expressed a wish to be rid of Charmaine."

CAROLINE OWENS

Mr Leveson said told the court that both Frederick and Rosemary West were obsessed with sex and had explained to a neighbour how they would go out together, looking for young girls who were hitch-hiking or thumbing lifts, to pick them up and get them to lodge with them. "It was easier to get a young girl into the car while Rosemary West was in the vehicle.

"They liked girls who were leaving home because they had nowhere to live. Picking up girls in this way was one of the blueprints for the horror that was to follow."

In September or October 1972, a 17-year-old girl called Caroline Raines (now Caroline Owens) was hitch-hiking between her home in Cinderford and her boyfriend's home in Tewkesbury. "A car stopped and she was offered and accepted a lift. It must have appeared safe because there was a couple in the car, a man and his wife.

"The driver was Frederick West; his passenger was Rosemary West. During conversation on the journey, she was *asked if she would accept a job* as their nanny. That itself you may consider somewhat remarkable, given the fact that they had met only minutes *before." She eventually accepted* the job and moved into 25 Cromwell Street.

"Caroline was paid £3 per week for her work. She enjoyed it, although Mrs West seemed over-attentive to her. She told Caroline that she had nice eyes; she would get a strand of her hair and stroke it and stare at Caroline. She made a point of coming into the bathroom when Caroline was in the bath.

The house at No 25 Cromwell Street, where police found nine women's bodies

"The job did not last very long. After a few weeks Caroline Owens began to dislike working for the Wests and decided to leave. Mrs West did not want her to go, but in November, leave she did.

"About four weeks later, on December 6, 1972, again at 10.30 in the evening, Caroline was trying to make her way from Tewkesbury back to Cinderford. Perhaps by coincidence, but perhaps not, Frederick and Rosemary West drove up and offered her a lift.

"As they left Gloucester, Rosemary put her arm around Caroline Owens and started talking of sexual matters. She tried to kiss Caroline on the mouth and began to touch her hair and fondle her breasts. Frederick West said, 'What's her tits like?' Rosemary West then put her hand in Caroline's vaginal area.

"At a *field gate near a* roundabout at Highnam, Mr West stopped the car. Mrs West was still indecently assaulting the girl. Frederick *West punched her in the face,* knocking her senseless. When Caroline came to, her hands were being secured behind her back with her scarf and her mouth taped.

"She was driven back to 25 Cromwell Street with Rosemary West holding her down and continuing the assault upon her. She was bundled indoors and taken to the first-floor front bedroom. The tapes were cut free. She was stripped naked by both Wests. She was lain on the bed. Mrs West touched her vaginal area, she struggled and her hands were once more tied up behind her back. She was then subjected to a series of sexual indignities.

"She was blindfolded, her legs held apart by Rosemary West whilst Frederick hit her vaginal area with a leather belt. Mrs West performed oral sex upon her. Mr West had intercourse with her.

> ‘When Caroline came to, her hands were being secured behind her back with her scarf’

"*She remained a prisoner* all night. They alternated between cruelty and kindness and, in spite of what had occurred, wanted her to return *to live with them, and secondly,* of course, not to tell. She saw this as her only opportunity of escape and so agreed." She fled, told the police and both Frederick and Rosemary West were arrested.

"The following day, Mrs West and her husband were charged with assault occasioning actual bodily harm and with indecent assault. I say at once they were not charged with rape. So it was that on January 12, 1973, they appeared before Gloucester magistrates. Both Frederick and Rosemary West pleaded guilty to both charges and were each fined.

"Mrs West is not on trial for attacking Caroline Owens. That case has been tried and *is* over. It is relevant, and we say highly relevant, because of the circumstances in which it occurred.

"Firstly the age and sex of the victim: Caroline Owens was 17 and, as we shall see, all the victims are girls and all except Charmaine fall into the age bracket 15-22. Secondly, the way in which a victim was obtained. The features: the offer of employment as a nanny or childminder, picking up hitch-hikers. This is exactly what Mr and Mrs West had explained as the way they operated.

"*Thirdly, the place to which* the victim was taken so that she might be sexually abused. Fourthly, the way in which the victim was assaulted and *abused. Fifthly, the sexual* indignities inflicted by both Wests upon the victim — a joint activity from start to finish. Sixthly Mrs West's sexual interest in girls, together with the pleasure and gratification she obtained from sexually assaulting a restrained and immobile girl.

"The evidence of Caroline Owens is also important for another reason. Notwithstanding that she was assault*ing in circumstances which* led Rosemary West and Frederick West to plead guilty, she had been trusted: trusted not to report the matter as she *promised. In the event, she* was released and did inform."

Within weeks of appearing before Gloucester magistrates, the Wests were to search for *their next* victim, the first to end up buried beneath 25 Cromwell Street, Mr Leveson said.

Lynda Carole Gough was born on *May 1, 1953,* in Gloucester. At 16 she left school and started work at the Co-op in Gloucester. By 1972 she started to become more *independent,* although she continued to live at *home.*

"One of the places Lynda visited was 25 Cromwell Street," Mr Leveson said. "*In March or April 1973 Lynda* decided to leave home and told her parents of her intentions. About one week later a woman called at the Goughs' home to collect Lynda and take her out for a drink. She describes the woman as being older than Lynda, she believed in her mid-20s, 5ft 5in, not slim and dark-haired. There was a car outside. Lynda went out returning later. The Crown contends that this was Rosemary West.

A week or two later, Lynda disappeared. Her mother went to Cromwell street to inquire after her and saw *some* of her daughter's washing on the line. "The woman [alleged to be Mrs West] said Lynda had left the items at the house when she had gone.

"*In reality Lynda Gough* had not left 25 Cromwell Street. The Crown contend that she had been murdered and buried in what had been an inspection pit in a shed or garage. There she stayed for nearly 21 years until March 7, 1994."

Mr Leveson told the jury that the girl's body had been

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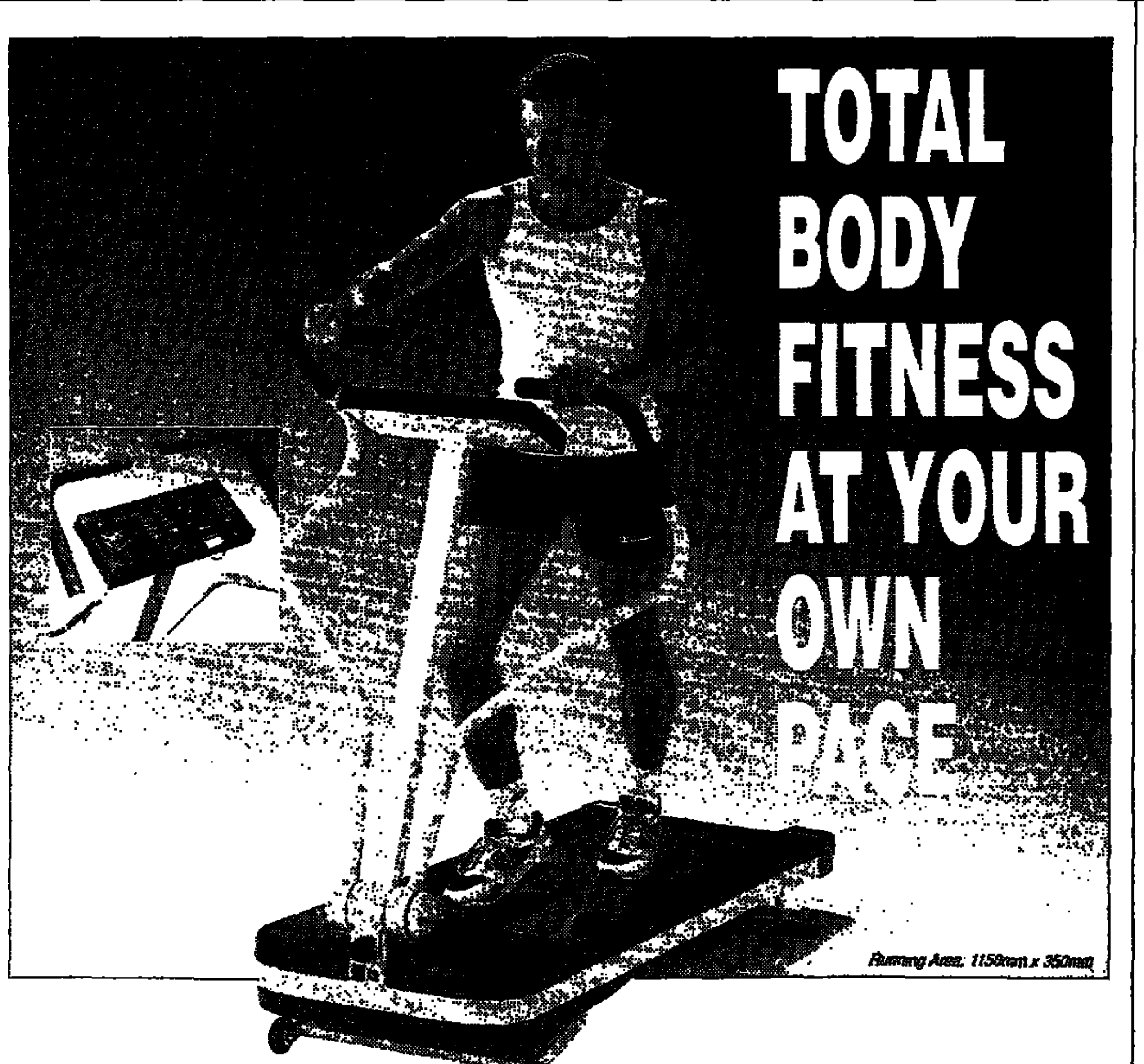

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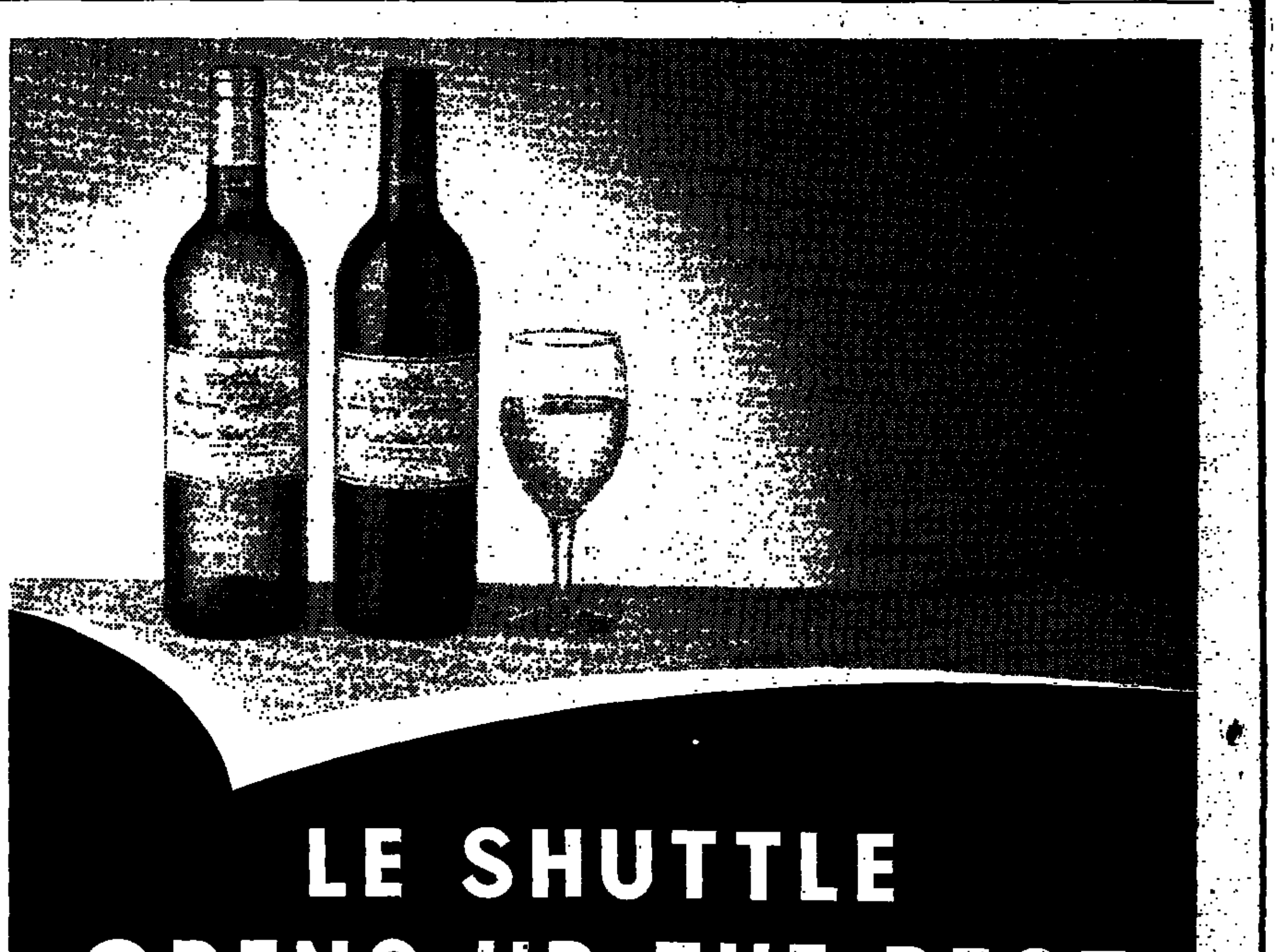

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'I do not do this to shock or provoke sympathy but so that you have the entire picture'

'Sex-obsessed pair liked to pick up young hitch-hikers'

From previous page

put into the pit which was then filled with loose stones, earth, metal and other debris.

"The skull was embeded in the wall of the excavation but the most important find for our purposes was in close proximity to the skull and consisted of a ring mask or wound adhesive tape. There was no clothing.

"Think for a moment about the absence of clothes and the circular tape with some hair fragments remaining after 21 years and remember what I *have told* you of Caroline Owens's experience with tape *wrapped around* her head *only some months* earlier.

"The circle of masking tape found with the *remains* provides the clearest evidence that Lynda Gough was naked and gagged. This provides striking and remarkable features of similarity with Caroline Owens and the only commonsense conclusion is of sexual abuse before death.

"Two attacks: one led to court, the other to death. They do not stand alone for they were but the start. It was in November 1973, after about six months, that the pattern of behaviour was repeated — repeated with a vengeance. A prolonged campaign of what the Crown contend was clearly sexual violence of an identical type commenced. It was to last 18 months and it led to the deaths of five girls."

CAROL COOPER

Mr Leveson said the five who fell into the period between November 1973 and April 1975 — Carol Ann Cooper, Lucy Partington, Therese Siegenthaler, Shirley Hubbard and Juanita Mott — came from very different backgrounds. "They are linked because of their contact with the Wests and with 25 Cromwell Street where each ended up buried roughly in a circle underneath the cellar clockwise in order of their deaths," he told the jury.

"Carol Ann Cooper, known as 'Caz' to her friends, was born on 10 April 1958. Her parents separated when she was four; *she* lived initially with her mother who died when *she* was about eight, *subsequently with her father*.

"*She was something of a rebellious teenager and became disruptive and troublesome. From time to time she ran away for a day at a time*," he said.

Mr Leveson said that on November 9, 1973, Carol was allowed to spend a night away from the children's home in Worcester where she was being cared for. She went to her grandmother's house returning the next morning to keep a doctor's appointment.

"She kept that doctor's appointment and later met her boyfriend who put her on her bus in Worcester at 9.15pm. She was not seen again by her grandmother, the home where she was being cared for, her boyfriend or anyone whom she apparently knew. *We do* not know how Carol *came* to get off the bus *without returning* to her *grandmother. What* we do know *is that she ended* up in Cromwell Street."

Mr Leveson *continued*: "We submit that the proper inference to be drawn is that [Mrs West] was a party both *to the* imprisonment of Carol and her subsequent death."

[illegible]

Lucy Partington was born on *March 4, 1952* and went to Pates Grammar School for Girls in Cheltenham and then Exeter University, where she *was studying medieval English*.

Mr *Leveson said she had spent a "peaceful, quiet Christmas"* with her *family in* 1973. "On Thursday, December 27, Lucy went out to visit a close school friend, Helen Render, with whom she shared many interests including medieval English art and music.

"She left Helen's house in Cheltenham just before 10.15pm to catch the last bus back to her home in Gretton. The bus stop she would have used was a mere three minutes walk from Helen's home and on the main A435 road. She was never seen again.

"She was quickly reported missing and very extensive enquiries were made. There was no trace of her; she had no future. The route on which *this bus stop stood, the A435, was on a route between Cromwell Street in Gloucester and the home of Rosemary* West's *parents in Bishop's Cleeve. It was only two miles from the* parents' house.

"The Crown contend that this serious-minded but gentle girl must have been picked up at that bus stop by the Wests ... looking for good targets. Once again more than 20 years were to pass before her remains were discovered, chopped, dismembered and forced into a hole in the cellar floor at 25 Cromwell Street.

"She had been decapitated, there were cuts in a number of bones, the hips had been disarticulated, that is forced from their sockets. Once again, as with other excava*tions, it was* clear that many *bones were missing*."

Among items *found in the grave was a sharp* kitchen *knife*, Mr Leveson told the jury, which could have been used to dismember the body.

THERESE SIEGENTHALER

Therese Siegenthaler had been studying sociology at Woolwich Polytechnic in South-East London when she disappeared in April 1974. She was described as a quiet girl, though confident.

Therese planned to travel to Ireland during the *Easter* vacation of 1974; she was only going to be away a week. On the *evening* of April 15, 1974, *she attended a party at a friend's house. She stayed overnight, returned to her lodgings to collect her personal belongings and then set off alone on her journey.*

She was never seen again. She was reported missing on April 26, 1974, *but no trace of* her was found. On March 5, 1994, *her remains were unearthed in the basement of* 25 Cromwell Street. Her body was buried in a grave in front of a false fireplace. She had been decapitated and the hips disarticulated.

She was wearing no clothes. A scarf, folded and rolled, formed a loop around her head, clearly intended "to secure her mouth". The scarf was tied in a bow.

"The only reason to abduct *her*," Mr Leveson said, "must have been so that she might be abused *either sexually or physically or both. She must have* been abducted. She had no connection with Gloucester, no connection with the Wests. Having regard to all the circumstances, again this can only have gone on in Cromwell Street."

SHIRLEY HUBBARD

By November 1974 Shirley Hubbard was 15½ years old. Her parents had seperated when she was two. She ran away several times and finally did not return. Her foster parents never heard from her again.

Shirley was reported miss*ing to police and also to social services. "Where she went and what she did, we simply don't know. But we do know certainly she fell into the hands of* those at Cromwell Street. On March 5 1994 her *remains* were found in the basement," Mr Leveson said.

He added that the only proper conclusion was that she was picked up from the streets. "She was taken to Cromwell Street, perhaps willingly, where she was kept in secret, murdered and buried in secret. While at Cromwell Street she must have been subjected to a terrible ordeal."

Shirley's remains were recovered from the cellar floor. Mr Leveson said Professor Knight made "a horrific and extremely *significant discovery*". *The skull was encased in a mask of tape and inserted through it was a plastic tube placed in the nostril position which* protruded from the front. The court was told that a second piece of similar tubing was also found at the burial site. Mr Leveson said that the only purpose for the tubes could be to allow Shirley Hubbard to breath and that she must have been alive while being sexually abused. He said Shirley, who was later decapitated and dismembered had been "kept alive but helpless".

He continued: "That can only have been for sexual gratification so that her living but restrained body *could* be *used or abused at will*."

Frederick and Rosemary West. The couple met in 1969 when Rosemary was only 15 years old

JUANITA MOTT

Juanita Mott was born on March 1, 1957, and was *described by Mr Leveson as "a rebellious and self-willed girl" as the jury was shown her photograph. She had lead an unstable life and left home shortly after she turned 15. In the summer of 1974, she met* Timothy Davis. *In the six* weeks he came to know her she moved to 25 Cromwell Street.

Mr Leveson said Juanita had other friends including Jennifer Frazer-Holland, now Baldwin. Juanita kept in touch with Mrs Baldwin and at one stage went to live with her at her bungalow near Gloucester, and on the road to Muchmarkle at the family home of Frederick West on April 12 1975. Jennifer planned to marry and it *was arranged that Juanita would look ater her children. The night before she went out and was never seen again. Her remains* were discovered 19 years later under the staircase in the basement of No. 25. Again the body had been decapitated and dismembered and a number of bones were missing.

MISS A

Mr Leveson said the prosecution would call evidence from other girls including one known only as Miss A. At the age of 13 she had been placed in care. She recalled visiting *Cromwell Street* and meeting the Wests.

He *said* Mrs West proved a "*shoulder to cry on*" for Miss A. When *she* was 15 *she* ran away from the home and went to Cromwell Street where Mrs West dressed only in her bra and pants made sexual advances towards her. She returned six weeks later and was taken by Mrs West into a room where there were two naked girls, neither of whom she knew. Mr Leveson said: "She was then underdressed by Mrs West. Frederick was in the room, but at that time he was clothed. Mrs West removed all her own clothing."

Mr Leveson then described how the girls were secured with packing tape and sexually assaulted by both Wests.

The court was told Miss A was eventually set free. Mr Leveson said the Wests had been correct in assessing the girl would not go to the police.

SHIRLEY-ANNE ROBINSON

Shirley-Anne Robinson was a lodger at Cromwell Street with whom Fred West had been having an affair and was pregnant by him. Mr Leveson said she was the first victim to be buried outside the house and the only victim at the house whose remains were found without tape or rope.

She was born on October 8, 1959 and like other victims had a "fraught" childhood before being taken into care. It was not clear how she came to live at Cromwell Street, but had moved in by April 1977 because she was remembered by another lodger, Elizabeth Brewer.

After she became pregnant, Mr Leveson said, it became common knowledge that the father was Frederick West. Mrs West had even told a neighbour that Shirley Robinson was carrying her husband's child.

But Mrs West's relationship with Shirley began to change. "There was friction between Mrs West and Shirley. Shirley was becoming emotional, often saying she loved Fred. There were frequent rows between the Wests."

One day Miss Brewer returned to Cromwell Street to find Shirley had vanished. "Fred told her that she had gone to visit relatives in Germany."

Another lodger recalled that she had seen Rosemary West in Shirley's old room packing her clothes into plastic carrier bags. Mr Leveson said Mrs West was "clearing out the room and disposing of Shirley's belongings in exactly *the same way as she must have done for Charmaine seven years earlier. Like Charmaine she was dead.*"

Sixteen years later on February 28, 1994, Shirley's dismembered remains were found in the rear garden by the back door. "Most significantly with these remains were a foetus of something of the order of eight calendar months' gestation."

ALISON CHAMBERS

Alison Chambers had been taken into care and placed at Jordansbrook Children's Home in Gloucester. *Just before her 17th birthday, Mr Leveson said, she absconded on August 5 1979. "She took a lot of her possessions ... Neither her family nor the home have seen her since.*"

On February 28 1994, her body was unearthed at Cromwell Stret. Once again, the corpse had been dismembered and bones were missing from the feet and hands.

"Alison Chambers clearly met her death at 25 Cromwell Street. The belt found round her head clamping closed her jaw can only have been placed in position to stop her screaming, to keep her silent. The purpose of such restraint must have been to permit abuse of the type experienced by the others," counsel said.

HEATHER WEST

Mr Leveson then turned to the fate of Rosemary West's 16-year-old daughter Heather, whose remains were the first to be unearthed. It was quite clear that there was growing friction between the Wests and their oldest daughter. "This may have been the normal problems of adolescents: it may have been more serious. What is clear is that on or about the 16 June 1987, four months short of her 17th birthday, she disappeared.

"One of the first to notice was Anne Knight who had an *office in Cromwell Street. She was a close friend of Rosemary West and a frequent visitor to Cromwell Street.*"

Mrs Knight asked *Mrs* West *if her* daughter was unwell. "The response is very illuminating. Rosemary West said: 'There was a hell of a row here a couple of nights ago. We found out that she was going with a lesbian from Wales and she has gone to Wales with her.' She appeared cross about the situation. This was untrue. Mrs Knight never saw Heather again, nor was the subject ever mentioned again," Mr Leveson told the jury.

Ronald Harrison had a daughter the same age and the two were friendly. He had asked after the teenager in September 1987 and was told by Frederick West, in the presence of his wife, that Heather had been assaulting the younger children. The assaults had, said Mrs West, led to her *giving Heather a good hiding and a few days* later she left home.

Other explanations were given *down the* years. A window cleaner *was told by* Mrs West that *Heather had run away, and they had told* the police. "*But she never did run away*," *Mr Leveson said.* "She was *murdered and* was *buried naked in the garden. None of her possessions has* been *found. none of* her clothes, none of her belongings, none of the impedimenta which an adolescent of 16½ gathers around her."

> There was a hell of a row. We found out she was going with a lesbian from Wales

Years later, police checks revealed no trace of Heather's movements, no indication that she had used her national insurance number to obtain benefits. "Ultimately, it was this inquiry which led them to obtain the original search warrant to search for the body of Heather West at 25 Cromwell Street. The warrant was served on Mrs West at 1.40pm on February 24, 1994. The end was very near. Two days later, just short of seven years after she had been interred in the garden, with the patio extended to cover her, the remains of Heather were found."

When her body was recovered, *it was* discovered that she had been decapitated. *Both thighs had been chopped with a sharp heavy instrument, an axe or a spade.*

"Once again bones were missing, *mainly from* the feet or hands, although some detached fingernails were found. The bones were jumbled up: the only proper conclusion is that the dismembered body had been dumped in random, one part on top of the other."

He went on: "The precise motive for the death of Heather West is to a degree speculative. It could be because she knew too much about what had gone on and *could* not be *allowed to leave home; it could* be because there was blazing row as Rosemary West said, and that Rosemary West *did give her a hiding and rather more than a hiding; it could be* that Heather was *resisting* attempts to involve her sexually in the household.

"In light of all the circumstances the Crown contend it is plain that you can and ought to conclude that Rosemary West participated in the killing of her own daughter."

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Three die as lorry crushes car on journey to school

BY LIN JENKINS

A ROUTINE school run ended in tragedy yesterday when a mother and two children died and two other children were critically injured as their car was crushed by a skip lorry. The vehicles collided head-on in heavy rain before running down an embankment and into a tree, where the lorry landed on top of the car.

Susan Prosser had been taking her eight-year-old daughter, Laura Medcroft, and two friends to school at Cadmore End, near High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. Mrs Prosser and Laura, of Stokenchurch, died with Nikita Somes, 7, of Chinnor, Oxfordshire.

Fire officers using heavy lifting gear and cutting equipment freed Mrs Prosser's 18-month-old daughter, Rachael Medcroft, and Nicholas Butler, 8, of High Wycombe, from the wreck of the Fiat Uno.

The accident happened on a straight stretch of the B482, about 200 yards from the Blue Flag pub in the village, which is three miles from Stokenchurch. Ron Adams, divisional fire officer, said: "It would appear that they collided head-on and the lorry took the vehicle backwards down an embankment and into a tree. The car was crushed beneath the lorry."

It took 80 minutes to release the final casualty. Two GPs and a hospital consultant were at the scene to treat the two unconscious survivors, who were taken to Wycombe General Hospital in High Wycombe.

Rachael Medcroft was last night being escorted by police to the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford, to undergo neurosurgical treatment. She also suffered chest injuries and broken limbs. Nicholas Butler was seriously ill on a ventilator in the intensive care unit at Wycombe General. He suffered severe head injuries and broken limbs. David Tippins, director of hospital services at Wycombe General, said relatives of both children were at their bedside.

An ambulance service spokeswoman said Rachael had been strapped into the front passenger seat in a baby seat and the boy had been sitting behind her. The three others had died instantly.

Keith Hunt, driver of the lorry from U-Fill Skip Hire of Stokenchurch, was released from hospital after treatment. His daughter-in-law, who declined to be named, said he was "very shaken".

Teachers at the 85-pupil Cadmore End Church of England Combined School drew the curtains after they were informed of the accident and pupils were taken inside. Canon Tony Williamson, director of education for the Oxford diocese, visited the school to offer comfort. Sarah Hargreave, the head teacher, said: "We are very much a family at this village school. As in any family we share things, and we will have an open assembly for parents and pupils on Monday morning."

Chris Grummitt, chairman of the governors, said: "This is a terrible tragedy. It is a very sad thing to happen to this small community."

Superintendent David McBirney of Thames Valley Police said: "The scene was absolute carnage. The car and the lorry were travelling in opposite directions and collided. We do not know how the accident happened at this time."

Paul Leaman, assistant chief ambulance officer for Two Shires Ambulance NHS Trust, said the ambulance crews would receive stress counselling.

The car in which Susan Prosser died with her daughter and a schoolfriend. The lorry landed on top of the Fiat Uno

Sea-horses discovered off Dorset coastline

BY NICK NUTTALL

SEA-HORSES may be returning to breed in waters off southern England after more than a century. Marine experts said yesterday that seven sea-horses had been found off Weymouth beach in Dorset over recent weeks.

Two were captured in 1992 in the same area, and there have been sightings of solitary sea-horses off the Cornish and Sussex coast in the past three years. Mike Quarm, a marine biologist at the Sea Life Centre in Weymouth, said yesterday: "It was the capture of one in Portland Harbour [in January] which made me suspect that a local colony had been established. The latest influx is more persuasive evidence."

Sea-horses were once common off the Channel coastline. Andy Horton, of the British Marine Life Study Society, said that they had probably used oyster and scallop shells as shelter for their young.

With the decline of shellfish stocks in the past century, sea-horses disappeared. Some experts have speculated that they might be attracted by warmer waters linked with global warming. But Mr Horton said there could be other reasons such as cleaner water.

'Gullible' passport forger goes free

A man who allowed his identity to be used by an escaped prisoner was put on probation for two years yesterday. Nigel Gatward, 31, a fruit picker from Brixton, admitted passport forgery at Kingston Crown Court.

In March, a man calling himself Nigel Gatward was jailed for 35 years for heroin smuggling in the Philippines. He was found to be Lee Raymond Heafley, 27, on the run from a prison in Surrey. Gatward was a "gullible" childhood friend, police said later.

PC jailed

A policeman who stole £400 from an 83-year-old woman was jailed for three years yesterday at St Albans, Hertfordshire. PC Derek Parfitt, 36, had gone to her home to investigate a burglary.

Carey in Sudan

The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, will meet President Beshir and Islamic leaders and tour refugee camps during his three-day visit to Sudan that begins today.

Gearbox alert

Land Rover said that turbo-diesel Discovery models could have a defect because of a lack of lubrication to the gearbox. None had failed, and repairs would be carried out during servicing.

Murderer dies

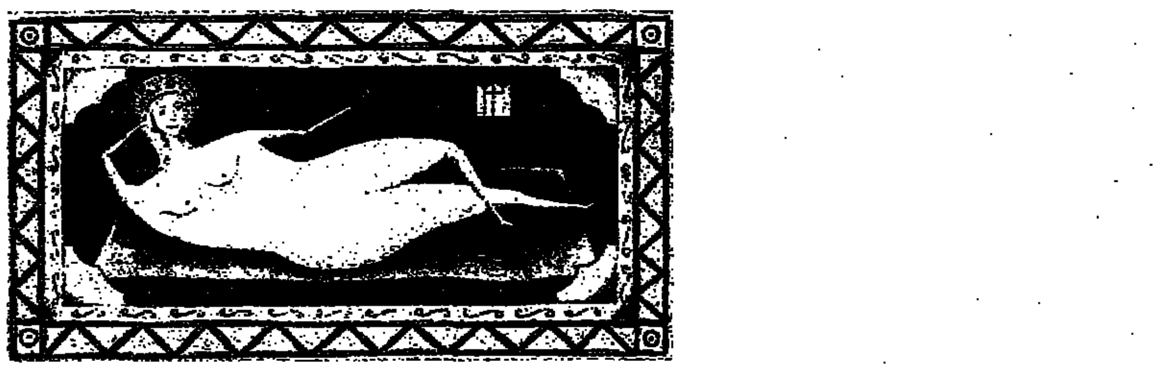
Gary Bland, 30, who was jailed for life in 1987 for murdering his girlfriend's father and raping her sister, has died after a three-month hunger strike at Grendon Prison, Oxfordshire.

Best book prize

The British author Louis de Bernieres has won the £10,000 Commonwealth Writers' Prize for his novel *Captain Corelli's Mandolin* (Secker and Warburg) which was voted best book of 1995.

☐ Mr Richard Stott, Editor of *Today*, said of Judge Sanders (report, *Trial by tabloid*, October 5): "If he is seriously saying that nobody can report a crime if somebody is immediately charged with committing it, it is a nonsense." Mr Stott was wrongly quoted in the report as saying "later charged".

☐ In the chart with Professor Robin Marris's article (October 3) the words 'proportional scale' were accidentally omitted from the caption.



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SHAKE [ ] EXACT
ALONE [ ] SHONE
SANDS [ ] PLACE
GRASS [ ] BOAST
CRASH [ ] FRAME
WALLS [ ] LANDS
SHOUT [ ] ADORN
SWAMP [ ] SMILE

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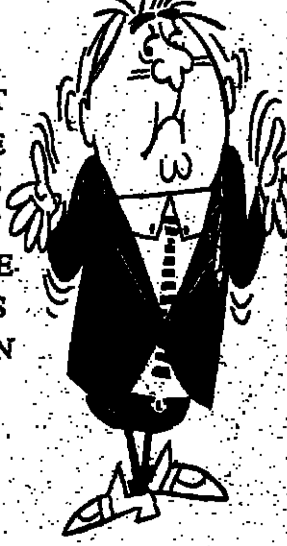

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Forgotten portraits show the beauty who became discarded wife after bearing author's 10 children

A radiant Mrs Dickens returns to London home

By Peter Foster

TWO long-lost portraits of Charles Dickens's wife Catherine, one of which was last shown at the Royal Academy in 1848, have been discovered in private homes and are to be exhibited in London.

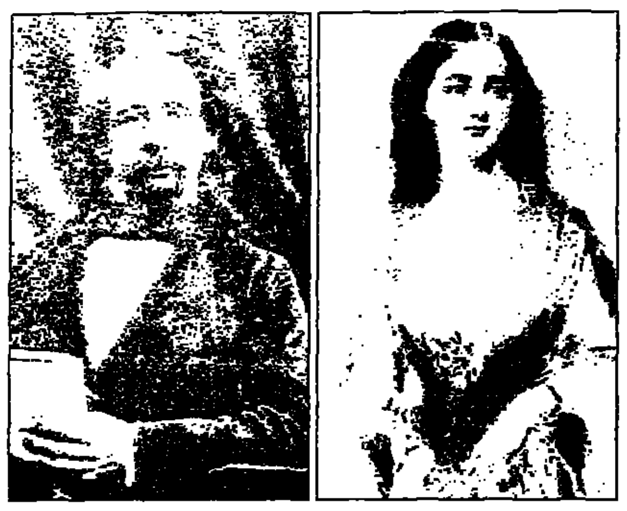
The portraits depict the radiant young woman that Dickens married in 1836 rather than the elderly, overweight figure in the better-known portrait used in most biographies. But by the time of their separation in 1858 Catherine had borne ten of Dickens's children and suffered 12 miscarriages.

The paintings of Catherine Dickens by the now fashionable Victorian artist Daniel Maclise have been in British and American private homes for almost 150 years. Students of Dickens have long known of the existence of the portraits, but only through an Edwardian engraving and a photographic reproduction.

British Dickens experts in particular welcome the opportunity to see the original oil. Until recently the only copy was an engraving from the original published in 1890.

Dr David Parker, Dickens scholar and curator of the Dickens House Museum in Doughty Street, Bloomsbury, London, said that the engraving did not do justice to the original.

"In the engraved copy Catherine has an Edwardian plumpness and sleepiness which may have reflected Edwardian tastes, but did not show Mrs Dickens as the delightful and attractive young lady she was." Cedric Charles Dickens, the author's great grandson, a retired businessman, said: "We are absolutely thrilled that these pictures are coming home. Dickens House is a mecca for Dickens lovers and they will be in the perfect place for everyone to see them."


Dickens was captivated by Catherine, an attractive young woman when this 1846 portrait was painted

Investigators at the Dickens House Museum have painstakingly pieced together the pictures' missing years to explain how they ended up in America. Bank records at Coutts and Co show that Dickens paid Maclise £55 in 1847 which experts believe was probably for the oil. But when Catherine separated from the author in 1858 she took the paintings with her. Some time before her death in 1879 she gave the oil to Angela, later Baroness, Burdett Coutts and bequeathed the watercolour to her son, also Charles.

The oil portrait resurfaced when the baroness's art collection was auctioned at Christie's in May 1922. The entry in the catalogue reads: "LOT 232. Portrait of Mrs Charles Dickens, the wife of the novelist. In green dress, white pinafore, seated by a table on which is a vase of flowers. Arched top — 44½ x 33½. Exhib RA 1848. Presented to the Baroness by Mrs Charles Dickens. Engraved."

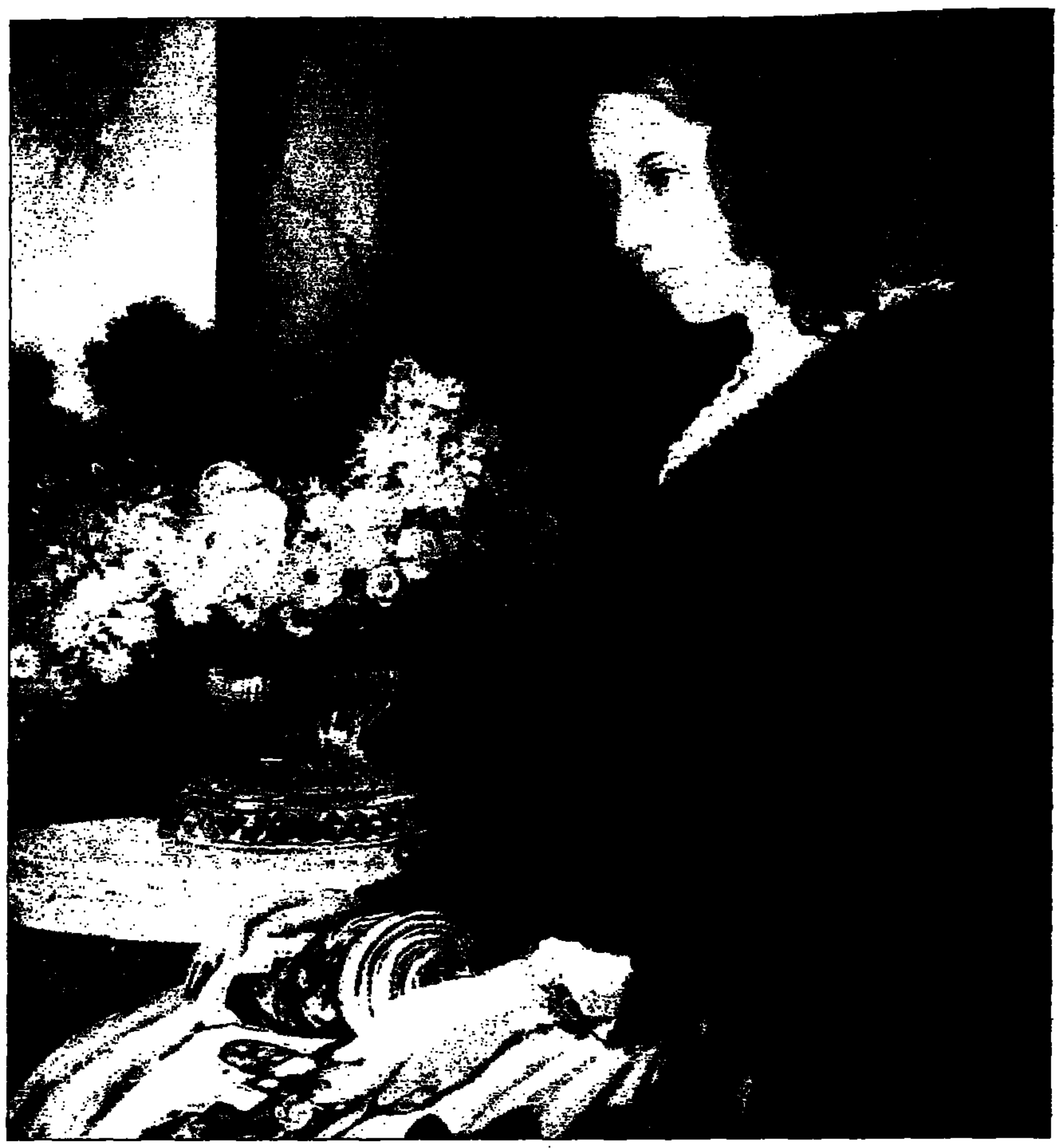
The picture was then bought by a member of the Burdett Coutts family but is presumed to have been sold with other possessions when the family moved house in early 1946. Later that year an American couple, Mr and Mrs William P. Wreden of Palo Alto, California, were on tour in England and saw the painting in the Howes Bookshop in Hastings. They paid £50 for the oil, £5 less than Dickens paid Maclise over a century earlier.

The portrait was shipped to America and hung above the Wredens' fireplace where it was discovered by Dr Robert Fellman, honorary secretary of the Palo Alto branch of the Dickens Fellowship.

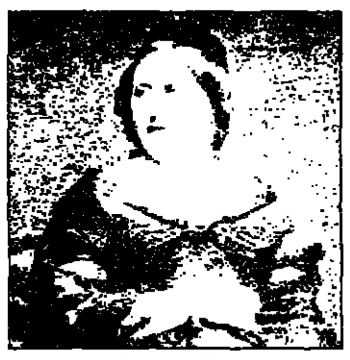
The movements of the watercolour have proved more difficult to trace. The portrait certainly remained in the Dickens family until 1929 and was first published as a photograph in 1935 in Thomas Wright's *Life of Charles Dickens*.

The history of the picture becomes hazier after this date. Mrs Wreden says her husband bought the painting in the late 1950s from a London art dealer as a Christmas gift. The paintings have been donated by Mrs Wreden to an American charity, the Royal Oak Foundation, which is allied to the National Trust. The foundation is planning to lend the portraits to the Dickens House Museum with a view to a transfer of ownership at a later date.

Dr Parker will fly to California this month to bring the paintings back to The Dickens House where Dickens lived in 1837-39, working on *Oliver Twist*, *Pickwick Papers* and *Nicholas Nickleby* after his success with *Sketches by Boz*, which had been collected and published in 1836.


Daniel Maclise's portrait of Catherine in 1847. Dickens paid £55 for it, equivalent to £1,832 at today's prices

Doomed love story of the 'biggest ego in England' and his Pet Mouse


Catherine in about 1857

By Edward Gorman

THE rediscovery of the portraits remind us that for many years Charles Dickens loved his wife, before he grew tired of what he considered to be her general indolence, ill-temper and incompetence as a mother.

An index of that affection for the woman he called his "pet mouse" is that he was prepared to pay his friend, the painter Daniel Maclise, the princely sum of £55 for the oil of Catherine, equivalent to £1,832.05 at today's prices. Catherine was a plump and attractive 19-year-old when Dickens met her in late 1834. Just 23 himself, he fell not only for her but also for the comfortable domesticity of her large family — she was one of 11 children. He became close friends with her father, the distinguished music critic and lawyer George Hogarth.

Dickens knew from the beginning that Catherine had little of his own imaginative or intellectual power, but he saw in her what Fred Kaplan, one biographer, describes as her "amiable, conventional, sweet-tempered and domestic" qualities, and a woman prepared to co-operate with his desire to be master of his own home.

She also possessed, in her pretty young sisters, something particularly attractive to Dickens. Ultimately, his relationship with one of them was to undermine his partnership with Catherine.

During 22 years of outwardly happy marriage, Catherine gave birth to ten children, seven boys and three girls, one of whom died in infancy. She became exhausted by child-bearing and, by the end of their marriage in 1858, was depressed and listless. By then, Mr Kaplan says, her "youthful plumpness had been transformed into matronly obesity."

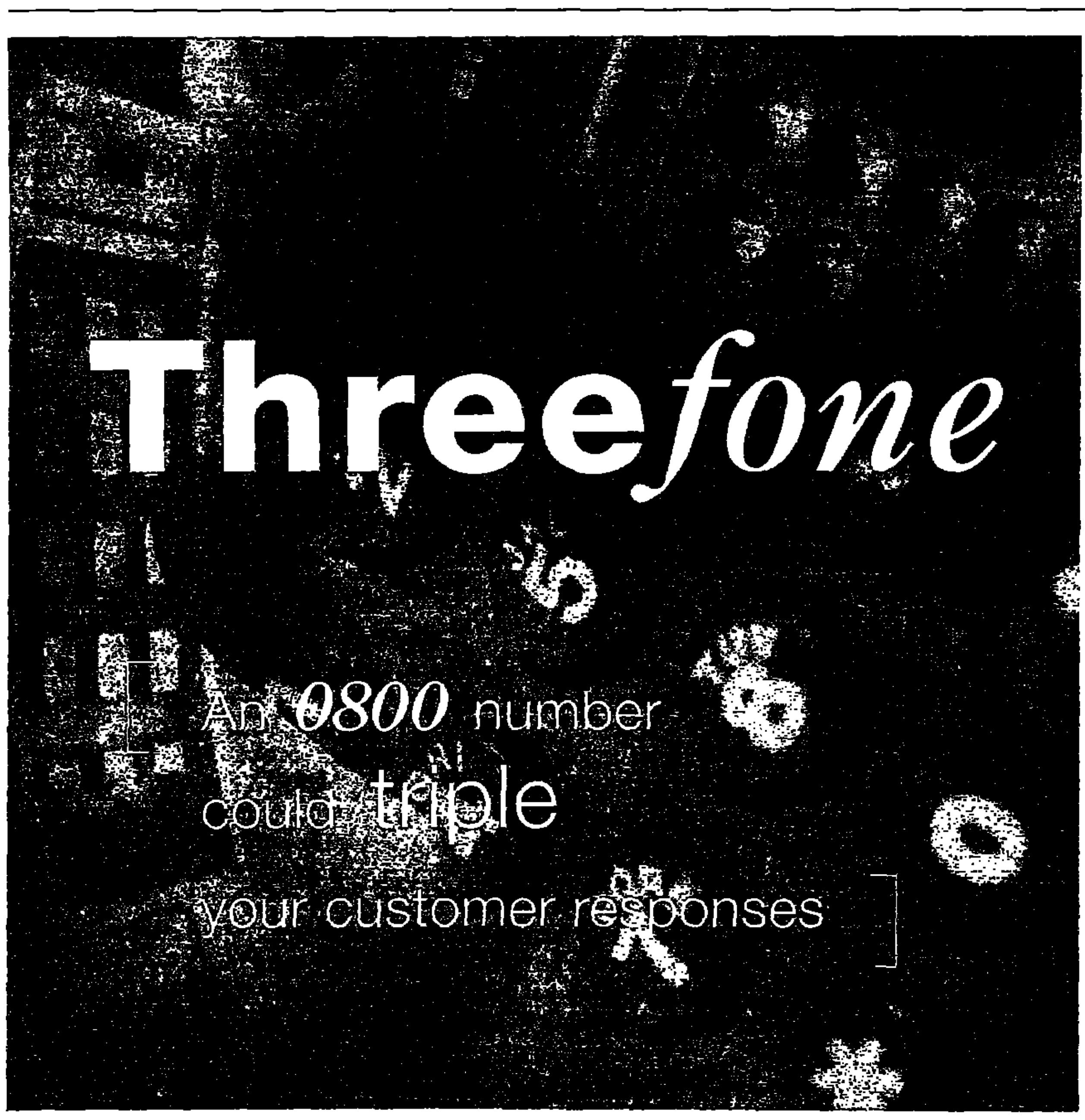
Claire Tomalin, author of *The Invisible Woman*, the story of Dickens's relationship with his mistress Nellie Ternan — whom Catherine blamed for the break-up of her marriage — believes that the great novelist's relationship with his wife was flawed from the start.

Dickens, she said, had become desperate to get married and to enjoy the domesticity it would bring. "But I don't think she was the love of his life," she said. "He was passionately in love with Maria Bignell, who became the model for Dora in *David Copperfield*, and he suffered deeply for being rejected by her."

Tomalin believes that Catherine simply could not cope with Dickens's energy and determination to organise every aspect of their life together. "One can't help feeling extremely sorry for her. She had the misfortune to be married to the man with the greatest energy and biggest ego in England. She was really crushed by him and she didn't have a chance."

When the separation came, Dickens was by all accounts as cruel to Catherine as he had been adoring during their courtship. Rumours dogged him of an affair with Georgina, one of the sisters who had been living with them for many years and became his housekeeper until his death in 1870. He described his marriage as having been for a long time "as miserable a one as ever was made".

Catherine outlived the novelist by seven years.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Job tribunals accused of political correctness

'Law Society chief attacks 'discrimination industry'

By Frances Gibb
Legal Correspondent

THE Law Society president delivered a blistering attack on "preposterous" awards for sex and race discrimination yesterday and challenged the existence of commissions on race relations and equal opportunities.

In a keynote speech against political correctness that plunged Martin Mears into a controversy, he asked whether the two quangos were a "public benefit or public nuisance".

Mr Mears told 800 solicitors at the society's annual conference in Birmingham that industrial tribunals, which make discrimination awards, have "allowed themselves to be hijacked — all too willingly I fear — by the discrimination industry. Should not those bodies who fund and encourage these preposterous applications — the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Commission for Racial Equality — have their wings clipped? Is it not time to consider whether they have outlived their usefulness?"

Mears: speech brought a furious response

The bodies, he said, had been rightly set up to produce greater cohesiveness in society. It was now arguable that they had become discredited through abuse. Mr Mears's attack, in which he cited such recent awards as "the sensitive Irishman whose hurt feelings were solaced by £30,000", prompted a furious response from Kamlesh Bahl, chairwoman of the Equal Opportunities Commission.

Ms Bahl, a Law Society Council member who had no advance warning of Mr Mears's comments, said his claims were "outrageous" and "completely unsupported by the facts". She said: "Fewer than 3 per cent of cases registered in industrial tribunals concern sex discrimination and less than a quarter of them go to a full hearing.

"The example picked out by Mr Mears distorts the real picture. The average sex discrimination award is still below £3,000. The Ministry of Defence awards for pregnancy dismissal cases were on average no more than £11,000." Ms Bahl said that those awards were unique, and based on lost wages for a fixed period of tenure, loss of pension rights and compensation for interest and injury to feeling, which could date back to 1978. The commission was valued by thousands of men and women who sought its advice each year. "It also represents excellent value for money at about 11p per head of the adult population," she said.

The Commission for Racial Equality said in a statement that the president's "totally negative approach does not help good race relations and will set back this cause".

Mr Mears, who swept to victory in July in the first contested Law Society elections for 40 years, went on to condemn the "catastrophic" results of government policy and of Thatcherite ideology which he said had ruined the middle-classes and the professions.

He criticised the "Government's lie" that all was well, that its economic policies were working and that, if lawyers were suffering, the fault was their own restrictive and outmoded practices. Lawyers were not the exception. "None of the professions is in good heart," he said.

DES JENSON

NESS
IS SO BRACING

Rebecca Fox, of Onslow's, with an original print of the celebrated Skegness poster, auctioned for £1,760 yesterday. The 1925 painting that inspired the poster fetched £5,960

Priest who doubted God is replaced

By Ruth Gledhill

THE Anglican clergyman sacked because he did not believe in God was last night replaced. One of the first actions of the Rev Terry Stratford, who succeeds the Rev Anthony Freeman as priest-in-charge of Staplefield, West Sussex, was to reassure parishioners that his faith in God was firm.

Mr Freeman, 49, was sacked from St Mark's last year by the Bishop of Chichester, the Right Rev Eric Kemp, for whom he once worked as domestic chaplain, after publication of his book *God With Us*. In it Mr Freeman said: "There is nothing out there — or, if there is, we can have no knowledge of it."

Mr Stratford, 50, was instituted at St Mark's last night by the Bishop of Horsham, the Right Rev Lindsay Urwin. Mr Stratford said: "Although I am open to further developments in the Church, I am pretty orthodox in my theological thinking. I think Staplefield needs a time of stability."

Pregnancy awards 'MoD soap opera'

By Frances Gibb

COMPENSATION awards of £300,000 to pregnant servicewomen were ridiculed by the President of the Law Society yesterday as "a soap opera which continues to run".

The Ministry of Defence has paid £52 million to women who had to leave when they became pregnant. One of the highest awards was £299,851 to a former army major, Helen Homewood, but 70 per cent of awards so far, paid to 4,760 women, have been for less than £30,000.

Mr Mears also cited the case of a temporary secretary who after two hours in her job won £8,000 from her solicitor employer for "gender specific verbal abuse". John Macleod, of Bradford, was ordered to pay the woman £8,300 after she said he called her "a slag". He denied this but admitted calling her a "foul mouthed scrubber" after she spent more than five minutes on a personal telephone call.

Mr Mears said: "If she had brought a claim for abuse in the county court she would have got £500. But because the abuse is so-called 'gender specific', she can get £8,000.

He added: "As long as the tribunals collaborate in what the public perceive as a racket it becomes politically impossible that legal aid should be extended to ordinary people seeking to pursue reasonable unfair-dismissal claims."

Leading article, page 21

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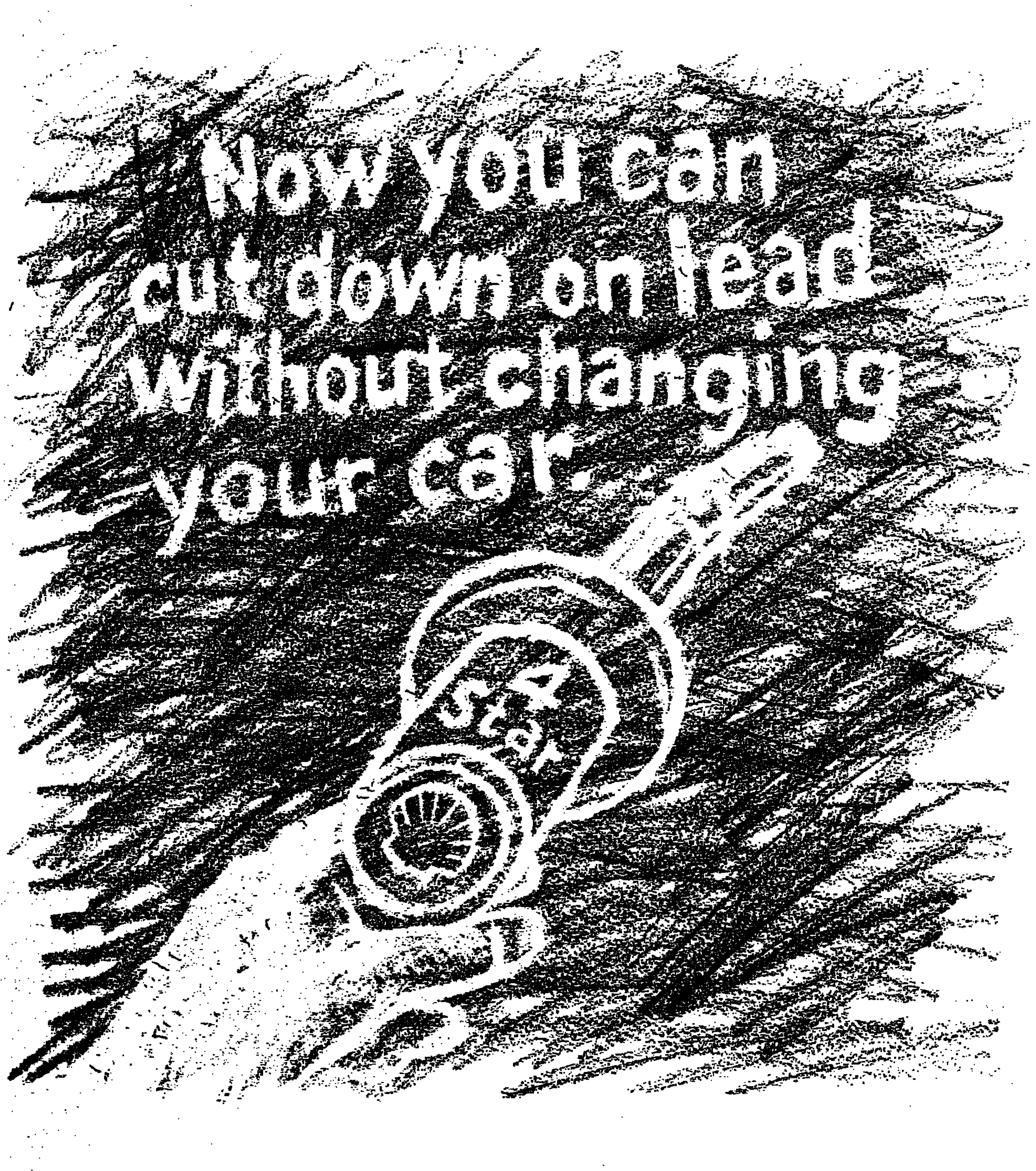
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Blair's triumphal Brighton march drives out fear of the Left

The loyalty of a party determined to return to power and superb organisation have put the Labour leader back on top after an uncertain summer, ***Philip Webster, political editor****, writes*

THE votes proved it. Tony Blair has the Labour Party in the palm of his hand. After his triumphal march at Brighton this week the Conservatives will find it harder to claim that something more sinister is lying in wait.

For years Tory ministers have been able to point to rebellion at Labour's seaside gatherings and trumpet warnings about the "real Labour" menace lurking in the wings to dominate should the party ever return to power.

Mr Blair's first conference as leader last year was slightly marred by a defeat on Clause Four two days after he had announced his momentous decision to end that blanket commitment to common ownership. That, the Tories claimed, was the true Labour Party in operation.

This year, thanks in part to superb organisation and hard persuasion behind the scenes but mainly to the readiness of the delegates to bow to the leader's will, there were no such slip-ups.

For the first time that anyone could remember, the leadership did not lose a single vote. One they might have lost, on rail renationalisation, they decided not to confront. The vote in favour of keeping Trident took the biscuit. No wonder Arthur Scargill wonders if he belongs any more.

Mr Blair himself and other Shadow Cabinet members began planning for the conference months ago, meeting as many activists as they could and explaining what they wanted to do.

On the edge of the conference a team of fixers — such as Jon Cruddas, chief assistant to Tom Sawyer, Labour's general secretary, and Pat McFadden and Sally Morgan, advisers in Mr Blair's office in charge of liaison with the unions — have worked to cajole delegates into voting the right way. The professionalism of the organisation has been obvious.

Yet Labour has every reason to avoid complacency. In the euphoria that followed Mr Blair's *tour de force* speech on Tuesday it was easy to forget that when he arrived in Brighton he was under some pressure. Accusations of autocratic leadership and vagueness of policy, and a series of leaks, gave him an uncomfortable summer as the Tories began to eat into his huge opinion poll lead.

With a speech combining idealism and realism, Mr Blair reassured his party and paved the way for the week's successes. Some of the activists might not like what he is doing to their party but no one doubts his sincerity. They are certain, too, that no one is more likely to take them back into power. For that they appear ready to forgive anything.

In the months ahead, though, the tensions can be expected to resurface. As he travels the country Mr Blair intends to see more and more party members, the technique that worked so successfully as he persuaded them to accept his Clause Four reform. But a lot can go wrong before Mr Blair has another opportunity to talk to his whole party at next year's pre-election conference.

Although Labour has begun to spell out its programme this week, the hardest decisions lie ahead and are certain to reopen disputes. Gordon Brown has ingeniously found resources with his windfall tax on the utilities. But the tough decisions on direct and indirect taxation, the ones which will send the Tory propaganda machine into overdrive, will have to be made in the run-up to the election.

Mr Blair has said that he is serious about reforming the welfare state. But the ideas of a guaranteed minimum pension and of taxing child benefit will prove controversial as the details unfold. Within the leadership there are doubts on the latter. Mr Brown does not fully share Mr Blair's enthusiasm.

For the moment, Labour will bask in the leader's triumph. Whatever they say in Blackpool next week, Conservative ministers are worried about Mr Blair.

Sawyer warns against dissent

By James Landale

INTERNAL squabbles could prevent Labour winning the next election, Tom Sawyer, the party's general secretary, said yesterday. Urging delegates in Brighton to remain united in the run-up to the election, Mr Sawyer said that dissent must not be allowed to deflect Tony Blair from his task.

The move came at the end of a party conference characterised by an unprecedented lack of grassroots rebellion against the party leadership. Mr Sawyer said politics was a tough game involving "adversity, dissent, condemnation, squabbles, and sometimes violent disagreement — and that's only from your side".

But he added: "Every minute of Tony's time, every ounce of his energy, spent on internal problems deflects him from the mission he is so superbly equipped to carry through — to win for Labour."

ANDRE CAMARA

Tony Blair and John Prescott accompanying Ditchling Choral Society in the traditional rendition of *The Red Flag*

'Election campaign starts now'

Prescott pummels delegates with the Hudd lines

By Jill Sherman

LABOUR
IN BRIGHTON

JOHN PRESCOTT called on the Tories to prepare for Opposition yesterday as he put the party faithful on an election footing, saying that "One-nation Labour" was now ready to govern.

But he spoke against complacency and called for a concerted effort from party activists to concentrate on marginal seats in the next 18 months. In a barnstorming speech to mark the end of conference, the deputy party leader urged delegates to get ready for the battle ahead and raise funds for the biggest campaign Labour had fought.

His speech was spiced with jokes, some written for him by the veteran comedian Roy Hudd, which had delegates cheering, stamping their feet and calling "encore". Mr Prescott said: "The general election campaigning starts now. John Major, stand aside! Go back to your constituency and prepare for Opposition."

Michael Heseltine was mocked as the man with two jobs — "the other Prime Minister and the other Tory party chairman. He is the *Kama Sutra* of the Conservative Party. He's been in every position except Number Ten."

Hours of negotiation between Mr Major and Mr Heseltine, apparently over their roles, had really been over who had ownership of Humphrey, the Downing Street cat. Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman, was the "general leading the Tory retreat on the chicken run," as MPs sought safer seats. David Amess, MP for Basildon, was described as "clucking off to become Southend Fried Chicken".

Hudd: veteran who provided the jokes

Mr Prescott, the conference darling, won a lengthy standing ovation after he contrasted Labour's unity with "that divided shambles called the Tory party". He hailed Tony Blair as a leader who had "so inspired, so enthused and so electrified this party and this country in the best conference I can ever remember".

He conceded that he had feared that rewriting Clause Four would split the party. "Instead it brought us even closer together," he said. "It has defined our values, our aims, our principles in the language of the 1990s. So we can stand up and say we're proud that we are a democratic socialist party."

Urging all those disillusioned with the Tories to join Labour, he said that the difference was between the party of privilege and the party of the people — "One Nation Labour. The party that speaks for the whole country. That will govern for the whole country. If you think this Government has betrayed our country, come and join us: One Nation Labour."

The greatest indictment of Margaret Thatcher and John Major was that they had brought back the "Tory evils" of idleness, poverty, squalor, ignorance and disease, which stalked the land 50 years ago, he said. Pressing all the right buttons on health, full employment and British Rail, Mr Prescott said: "We will take this divided society and make it whole again. We'll take back the NHS from the accountants and return it to the people. We'll forge a new welfare state, establish an education system based on equality and fairness, build homes for the homeless and, yes, we'll act on our commitment to full employment," he argued.

But he emphasised that Labour would not give unrealistic, uncosted pledges. "We won't go into the next election on empty slogans and promises we can't keep."

He earned loud applause, however, when he promised that, whatever happened in the next 18 months, a Labour government would fulfil its commitment to a "publicly owned, publicly accountable" rail network.

But he made clear that Labour would now focus on trying to stop any further moves to privatise British Rail. "To talk of returning rail to public ownership is defeatist. We'll make sure it's never taken from the public in the first place. We'll fight and we'll fight to stop this crazy sell-off."

At the close of the conference, party delegates heard the Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves from Verdi's *Nabucco* performed by the Ditchling Choral Society. They then joined in a rendition of *The Red Flag* and *Auld Lang Syne* to round off the most successful conference that many delegates could remember.

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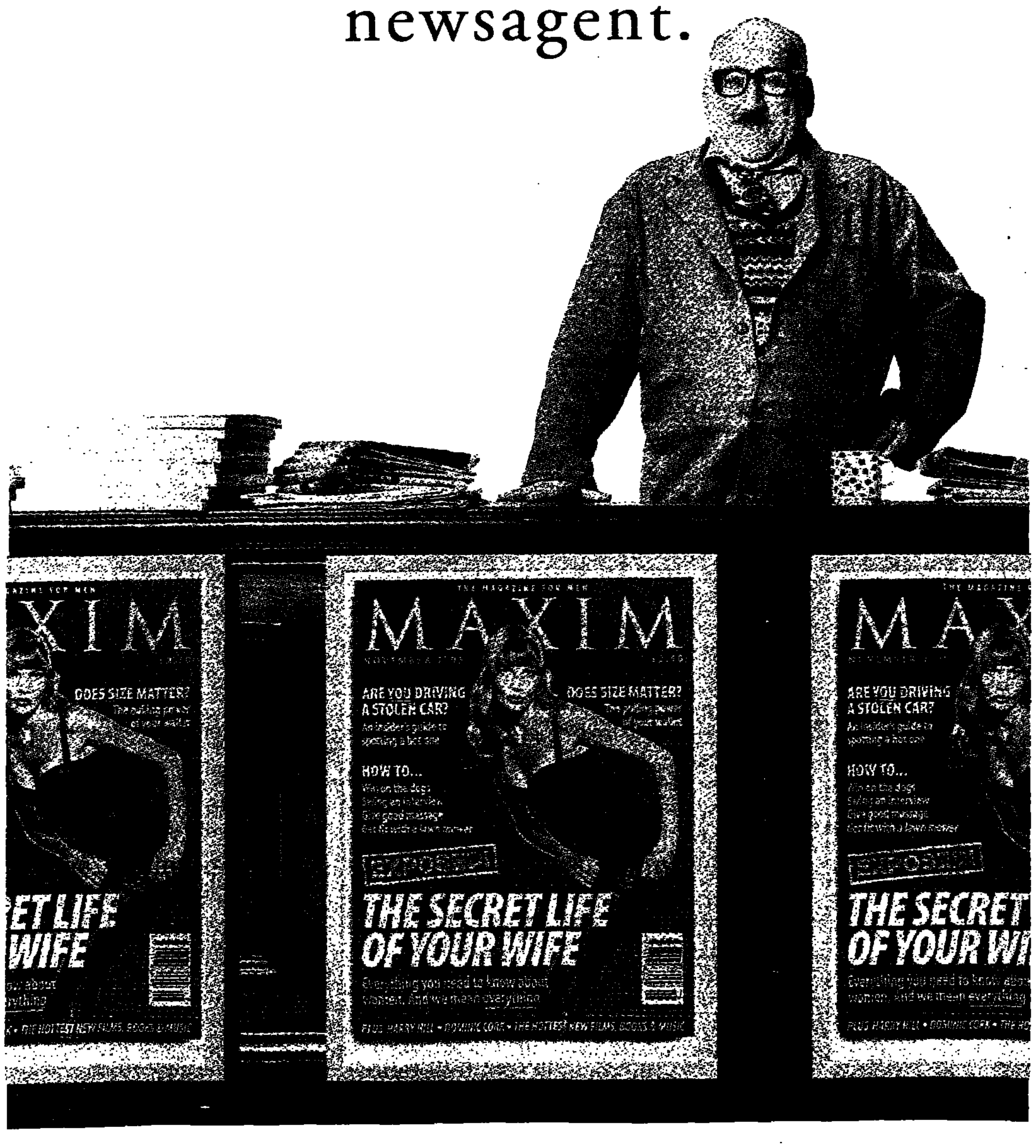

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Gummer's shire plan 'exceeded his power'

BY IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

ROYAL BERKSHIRE won a first legal round in its fight for survival yesterday. The High Court ruled that John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, exceeded his powers in deciding to split the county into six all-purpose unitary authorities.

As the only historic county council threatened with abolition by the reorganisation of shire England, Berkshire's fate seemed to be sealed in March when Mr Gummer agreed with the Local Government Commission that services would function better if it were replaced.

However, the county's legal department discovered a possible flaw in the ministerial order to abolish the county. Yesterday, the court agreed that it was wrongly drafted and could not be placed before Parliament.

Mr Gummer's mistake was in not accepting the commission's recommendation that two of the old districts — Bracknell Forest and Windsor with Maidenhead — should be joined to form one new-style authority. The commission felt that, unlike the other four Berkshire districts, these two individually were too small to provide efficient services.

Mr Gummer opted to retain all the existing six and convert each of them into a unitary authority. In doing this, Mr Justice Collins ruled, he had gone beyond his statutory powers to "modify" the recommendations.

"He believed he had the power to make the decision because it amounted to giving effect 'with modificiations'," the judge said. "But to call this a 'modification' would be a misuse of the English language. The Secretary of State is not the arbiter of what is or what is not a 'modification'."

The Oxford Dictionary, the judge said, defined "modification" as: "The action of making changes in an object without altering its essential nature." The essential nature of the commission's recommendation was that the two districts needed to merge to function.

Leave to appeal was granted to the Environment Department, which asked for an accelerated process to resolve the uncertainty. A spokesman said: "We are looking at the judgment, but this appears to be based on a narrow point of interpretation rather than the merits of the Secretary of State's decision."

Garth Scotford, the county manager, said: "We live to fight another day. Berkshire has been more than annoyed at being treated differently to all the other historic counties. If we are abolished, the new unitaries will be in an isolated position, surrounded by the existing counties."

He said that there had been a massive swing of public opinion since it became known that the change would cost up to £7 million a year. A MORI poll conducted when the commission first asked what form of local government people wanted showed 49 per cent in favour of retaining the county. A recent poll showed support had grown to 73 per cent, with less than 10 per cent favouring abolition.

"We hope that Mr Gummer will refer Berkshire back to the commission to have another look at it," Mr Scotford said.

Mr Gummer has the option of accepting the commission's recommendation. More than 100 members of the House of Lords have threatened to vote against any order to abolish the county council.

Vitamin E gives hope for male fertility

BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

MANY cases of infertility could be cured by vitamin pills, work at Sheffield University has suggested.

A three-month course of vitamin E can improve sperm function in about a fifth of infertile men, according to the study of 60 men by Dr Chris Barratt of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology. He admits to being surprised by the results. "I was doubtful about the effectiveness of vitamin E before the trials. But it worked out better than I could have hoped." The wives of two of the men became pregnant.

Dr Barratt wants to try larger-scale trials. He believes the vitamin helps those who suffer from sperm that is *damaged by free radicals,* the highly active chemicals produced in the body by the processes of metabolism.

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STUART CLARKE

Thabo Mbeki, First Deputy President of South Africa, after becoming Doctor of Laws at Sussex University yesterday. Dr Mbeki, a Sussex student in the 1960s, received his honorary degree from Lord Attenborough

The value of a Church that remains part of this world

The Rev John Witheridge

WHEN the rhetoric and idealism of the party conferences are over, the more mundane business of Parliament can begin. But first must come the lavish ceremony of *the State Opening.* The presence of the Queen enthroned in the House of Lords will signify the subservience of the body politic to the Sovereign. It will symbolise too the supremacy of the Crown over the Church of England. For alongside the Lords Temporal sit the 26 senior bishops, the Lords Spiritual.

There are many today who seem to despise the established Church. They resent its privileges and spiritual monopoly. They accuse it of compromise, of worldliness, of being lukewarm in its faith. They see it as too rooted in the past: too tolerant, too traditional.

These are understandable criticisms, but each also points to a virtue. A Church which has influence to do good is to be valued. So also is a Church which tries to include people, however uncertain their faith; a Church which thinks as well as feels: a Church which takes its history seriously, and tries to learn from past mistakes. Such a *Church owes its origin* and inspiration to Constantine, the first Roman emperor to be converted to Christianity.

Constantine was converted in the year 312. If his biographer, Bishop Eusebius, is to be believed, the following happened just before a decisive battle in Rome: "Constantine said that about noon he saw with his own eyes the trophy of a cross of light in the heavens, above the sun, and an inscription 'conquer by this' attached to it."

Credo

Constantine's conversion was as important to the development of the Church as St Paul's conversion on the road to Damascus. Christianity became the official religion of the Roman Empire. Churches replaced temples, Communion replaced sacrifice. Christian Constantinople replaced pagan Rome.

Perhaps the most significant change of all was the new kind of Church which emerged. Before Constantine the Church consisted mainly of small and scattered communities of Christians, often meeting in secret for fear of their lives. After his conversion, the Church became not a sect but a society, powerful and prosperous. Bishops were welcome and influential at court, and in public affairs. The emperor himself took an active interest in the Church's life and beliefs. In short, the Christian Church changed from an unpopular and marginalised minority sect to a powerful institution, interwoven with every level of society.

The best defence of all for a Church like this is to be found, I believe, in the heart of the Christian Gospel itself — a Gospel which tells of a God who made and loved all the world, and who in Jesus Christ entered into that world as a man, to live a human life, and to save not just the righteous, but sinners.

☐ *The author is Conduct of Eton College*

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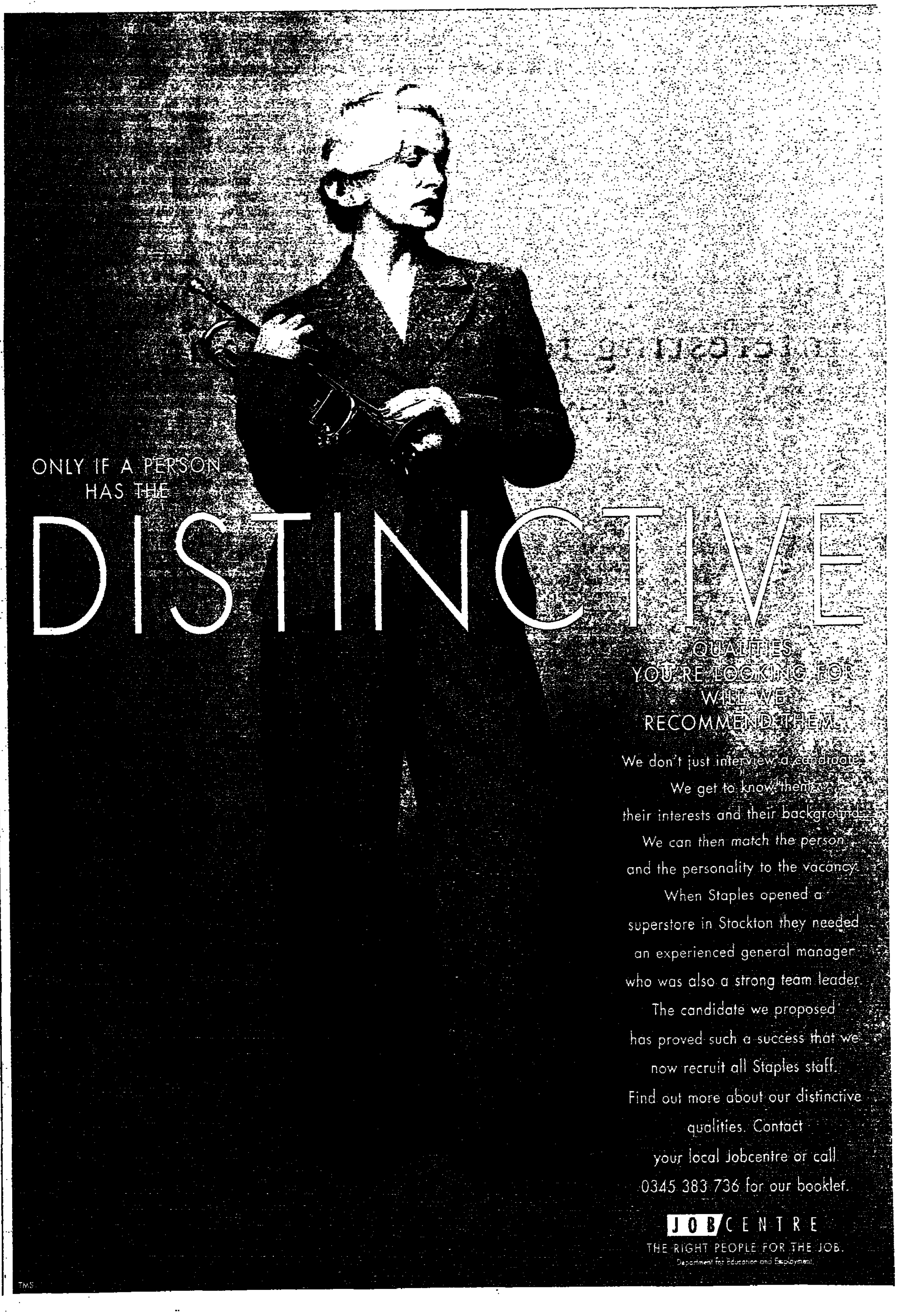

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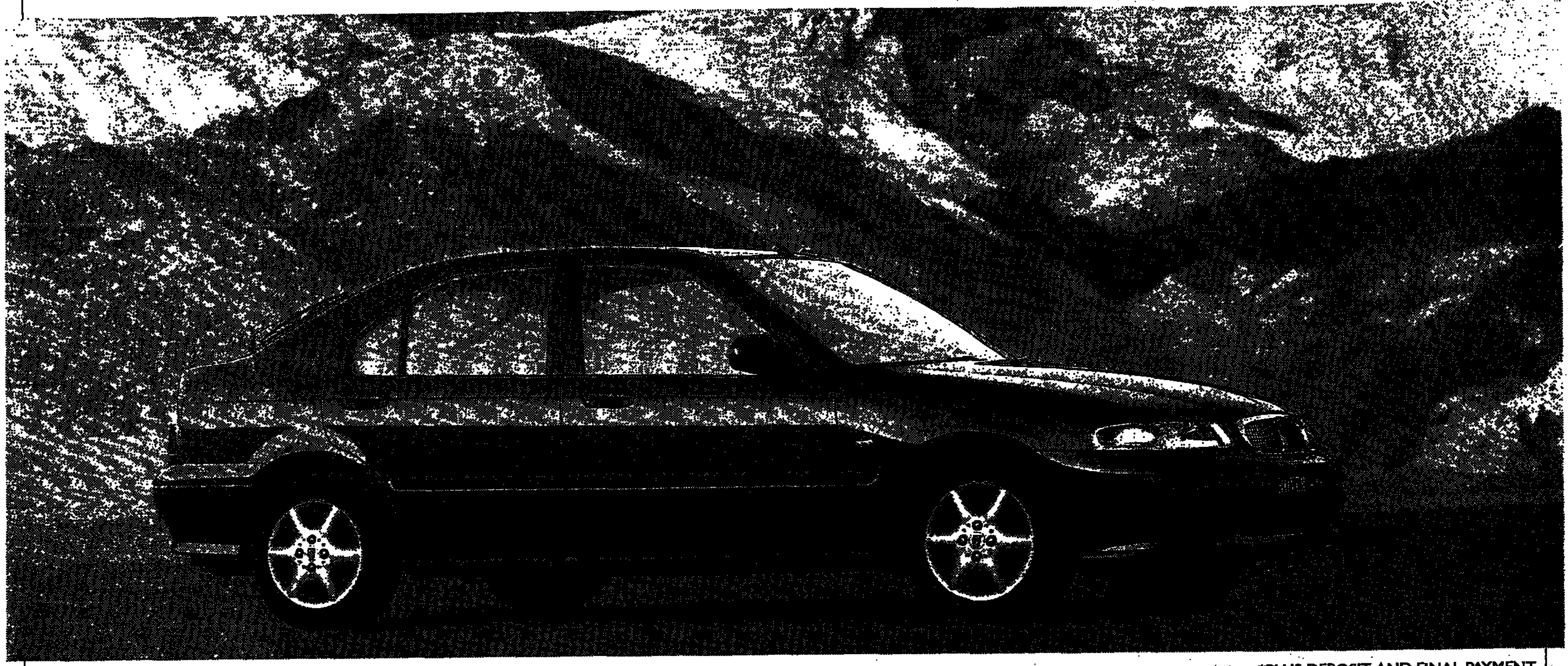

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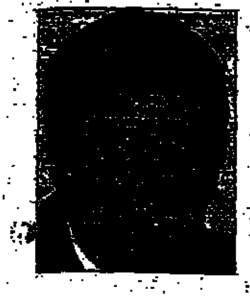

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7 1995

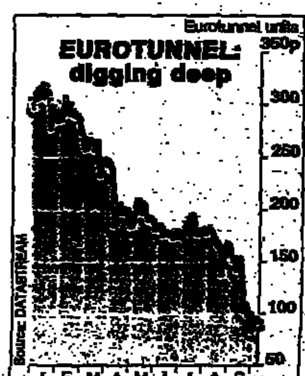
Deadline set for Tunnel bail-out

By Jonathan Prynn, Transport Correspondent

EUROTUNNEL has been given six months to draw up survival plans for a massive restructuring of its £8 billion debt, after it lost £465 million during the first six months of train operations through the Channel Tunnel.

Sir Alastair Morton, co-chairman, said an "irrational and insane" price war launched by its ferry operator rivals was hampering its efforts to build up its revenues.

A rescue plan will be presented to banks between January and March, before talks aimed at securing the long-term future of the company. The key issue was "when the interest gets paid and how much," said Sir Alastair, who ruled out the option of a massive debt-for-equity swap except as a last resort.



Any deal would centre around the banks "sharing the pain" with the 700,000 shareholders, who had already suffered as a result of the financial problems, he said.

Two committees representing the interests of small shareholders have been set up "to enhance the quality of shareholder information" after a slump in the share price in recent weeks.

Achieving the support of all 225 banks for restructuring proposals would be difficult, Sir Alastair said, but added: "If there is no deal, then the banks have got a problem because they aren't going to get paid interest."

The banks would not put the company into receivership because they were more likely to get their money back by letting Eurotunnel build up revenues over the remaining years of the Tunnel concession. He said: "Why should anyone want to write off the principal of their loans when there are 57 years left to pay it back?"

Sir Alastair said the 18-month suspension of interest payments on the bulk of borrowings had given a breathing space for new talks with bankers about securing the company's future. The rolled-up interest will take the total outstanding debt to more than £9 billion by the end of the moratorium.

He said: "We believe we have a stable platform to stand on while we negotiate." The company has no access to external debt or equity markets because of the state of its balance sheet but operating costs, capital expenditure and the £4 million a month interest on its senior debt are being covered by cash flow.

Turnover in the first half was £104.5 million, compared with interest charges of £365 million. Full-year turnover is expected to rise to £275 million, against the £500 million forecast at the time of last year's rights issue. A further £57 million of cash flow was received in the first half from advances by the operators of Eurostar, the Tunnel train service, but this cannot be accounted as turnover.

Revenue next year would be very substantially up on 1995, said Sir Alastair, who claimed market leadership for passengers and freight across the Channel after a summer growth in business.

The company is pursuing more than £2 billion of claims against the British and French Governments and contractors over technical faults that dogged the Tunnel in its early months and against the British, French and Belgian railways for the low level of payments from Eurostar.

Sir Alastair launched an attack on the ferry companies for expanding capacity on the Dover-Calais route at a time of intense competition, saying they were using "disgraceful" government subsidy through duty-free sales to support otherwise loss-making services.

Tempus, page 28

Morton: "If there is no deal, then the banks . . . aren't going to get paid interest"

Manweb falls to £1.1bn takeover

By Martin Waller
Deputy City Editor

THE first contested takeover bid in the electricity sector has resulted in a win for the bidder, and a victory for ScottishPower in its £1.1 billion offer for Manweb.

Just two hours after the offer closed yesterday ScottishPower was claiming success in the bid, which had been bitterly opposed by the Manweb management, after signs that support for the Scots had come both from City investors and the quarter of the equity held by the public.

A substantial proportion of these last shares are held by Manweb customers in its home territory of Merseyside and north Wales, where the bid has provoked strong reaction. The result of the count, 61.5 per cent of Manweb's shareholders in favour, including the 28 per cent the Scots had gathered in the market, suggested many customers had succumbed to the temptation to take profits.

Those who bought on privatisation and paid 240p a share were offered 990p in cash from ScottishPower, or a cash and shares package worth £10.10p.

At least one big institutional holder, the Prudential with almost 8 per cent of Manweb, is thought to have followed its normal policy and backed incumbent management. John Roberts, Manweb's chief executive, said: "Clearly we are disappointed with the result. We have sought to obtain the best value for shareholders, and we achieved a higher offer despite the backdrop of an unhelpful political and regulatory environment."

Uncertainties over whether the offer would be allowed held back Manweb's share price early on in the bid, allowing ScottishPower to amass a stake of nearly 15 per cent, which observers believe contributed to its eventual success.

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BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3526.5	(-17.9)
Yield	4.0%	
FT-SE A All share	1743.39	(-7.37)
Nikkei	18506.28	(+285.87)
New York		
Dow Jones	4770.86	(+7.95)*
S&P Composite	583.55	(+0.92)*
Federal Funds	5¾%*	(5 11/16%)
Long Bond	106 7/32*	(105 15/16)
Yield	6.41%*	(6.42%)
3-mth Interbank	6 21/32%	(6⅞%)
Little long gilt future (Dec)	105 27/32	(105 21/32)
New York		
$	1.5815*	(1.5855)
London:		
$	1.5831	(1.5847)
DM	2.2519	(2.2559)
FFr	7.9090	(7.9290)
SFr	1.8149	(1.8153)
Yen	159.26	(158.61)
£ index	85.1	(85.0)
London:		
DM	1.4258*	(1.4203)
FFr	5.0027*	(4.9290)
SFr	1.1491*	(1.1395)
Yen	100.70*	(99.40)
$ index	92.8	(92.8)
Tokyo close Yen 100.30		
Brent 15-day (Dec)	$15.56	($16.45)
London close	$382.75	($383.25)

* denotes midday trading price

Greenalls bid

Greenalls, the pubs and restaurants group, has launched an agreed £518 million bid for rival Boddington that will result in the loss of 500 jobs. Directors and employees of Boddington will make an £8 million profit on the buyout of four million share options. Page 26

French act to protect the franc

THE Bank of France acted to head off speculation against the franc which tumbled on worries about France's budget deficit, its fitness for European monetary union and the position of Alain Juppé, Prime Minister (Janet Bush writes).

The central bank closed its five-ten day borrowing facility and replaced it with an overnight one. Although it did not raise interest rates, the action potentially makes it easier to punish speculators. If selling continues, the bank could impose penalty interest rates.

The franc was trading at 3.5065 against the mark in late trading yesterday, down from Thursday's 3.4700. The dollar recovered some ground lost with dealers cautious about today's Group of Seven meeting in Washington.

Dollar aid, page 26

Recession fears eased by output

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

MANUFACTURING activity bounced back in August after a fall in July, alleviating fears of a slide into renewed recession. But economists said that trends remain weak.

Manufacturing output rose 0.6 per cent from July. July's activity dropped 0.2 per cent, a smaller fall than the one of 0.4 per cent previously reported. The rise in August finally restored manufacturing output to its pre-recession peak in March 1990.

However, the August rebound still meant a drop in the annual rate of growth to 1.3 per cent from 1.6 per cent in the previous month.

Industrial production as a whole was flat in August, largely because of lower production of gas and electricity as a result of the hot weather and continuing maintenance in the North Sea, as well as lower gas production because of weaker demand.

The City said that manufacturing remains sluggish but is not weak enough to make the argument for lower interest rates compelling.

The CSO also published the latest set of cyclical indicators which still point to a downturn in the economy. The longer leading indicator, which signals turning points in the economy 13 months ahead, turned down again, continuing the downward trend in place since June last year.

The Finance & Leasing Association's latest reading of the economy suggested that demand for consumer credit has weakened sharply. Retail store credit and direct personal finance, including personal loans, fell 6 per cent on July, double the monthly drop in 1994.

Barings bondholders attack SFO

By Robert Miller

THE Serious Fraud Office has been accused of using "hobnail boot tactics" against bondholders who lost more than £50 million in the collapse of Barings.

The SFO yesterday confirmed that it had formally taken over the proceedings begun by investors in a private prosecution. This led to the City of London Magistrates Court issuing eight summonses against Nick Leeson, the derivatives trader blamed for the £860 million banking disaster. The summonses allege false accounting and obtaining money by deception.

George Staple, the Director of the SFO, considers that "it is not in the public interest for there to be a prosecution of Mr Leeson in the UK in the present circumstances". The fraud office said Mr Staple "will be applying for the withdrawal of the summonses issued at the Magistrates court". The case is due to be heard on Tuesday when Jonathan Caplan, QC, will represent the SFO.

Jonathan Stone, the corporate lawyer representing the Barings Perpetual Noteholders Action Group, said: "I don't believe that the SFO has a right to take this action without good reason. I shall be writing to Sir Nicholas Lyall, the Attorney General, this weekend, asking him to explain the ulterior motive behind the SFO's decision. There has been no denial anywhere that some, or indeed all, of the eight summonses are not well-founded."

A senior SFO source last night strenuously denied that there had been any political motive or pressure brought to bear on the fraud office in the decision to drop the private prosecution.

David Harrel, of SJ Berwin, the solictor acting for the action group, said: "I think the SFO has taken a step too far and trampled over the right of individuals to bring a private prosecution. The SFO could have stood back and let the private action take its course and leave the final decision to the German Government."

It was announced yesterday that the legal team behind Mr Leeson, who is being held in a Frankfurt prison pending extradition to Singapore on 11 charges of forgery and cheating, has hired a former senior official of Singapore's Commercial Affairs Department (CAD) as a legal adviser. John Koh, a former deputy director of the CAD, the official Singapore authority in charge of the investigation into Leeson, said: "I have been retained to advise on Singapore law."

POUR MONSIEUR
CHANEL
PARIS
LOTION APRÈS RASAGE
AFTER SHAVE LOTION

POUR MONSIEUR
ELEGANCE IS TIMELESS
CHANEL

RPR versus Fisons: the big yawn

MELVYN MARCKUS

◆

Sometimes I write with a degree of privileged knowledge and, how can I put it, sometimes I don't. This article, I warn you now, is of the latter variety. It concerns the world's most boring takeover bid. The bidder, lest the whole tedious saga has passed you by, is an enterprise called Rhône-Poulenc Rorer, the US associate of Rhône Poulenc of France. Its target is Fisons, a once upon a time pharmaceutical/fertiliser combine that fell on a hard decade.

The Big Yawn (this battle is about asthma inhalers) started on an otherwise pleasant Friday morning in August when Topic screens revealed that Rhône-Poulenc Rorer had launched a £1.7 billion hostile takeover bid for Fisons. Casual observers, such as myself, were mildly surprised that Fisons — perceived as the poison pill of the drug world a year ago — was seen by RPR to be worth £1.7 billion. Less casual observers, such as market-makers, were also surprised, witness a 71½p rise in the share price to 264.5p for a 24½p premium over the 240p cash terms. Earlier this year Fisons' shares could have been bought for as little as 105p — approximately one-fifth of 1991's levels. Jokes were made about the French which, presumably, carried across the Channel, where Rhône-Poulenc's share price started to croak.

Enter Stuart Wallis, who is not a casual observer. Mr Wallis is Fisons' chief executive who arrived a year ago. It was widely acknowledged, before RPR's bid, that Mr Wallis had done much to make Fisons a more palatable pill for shareholders and predators alike. One of the things Mr Wallis did was sell much of the company's research and development operation to Astra, the Swedish drug combine, for some £200 million. It is unusual for drug companies to dispose of their R&D facilities but, then again, Fisons is an unusual company. Three chief executives departed in the space of three years which also brought three profit warnings. Wallis has also sold Fisons's scientific instruments division for some £200 million (subject to delayed regulatory agreement) and recently disclosed the sale of two of its three laboratory supplies offshoots for a further £200 million.

The Astra deal served to cut gearing from 104 per cent at the end of 1994 to 17 per cent, which leaves Fisons with prospective cash of around £400 million.

Wallis's response to RPR's 240p terms was that the offer was too low. Several City analysts promptly agreed (why not?) despite the fact that this year's rise in Fisons's share price from 105p to a pre-bid level of 193p owed much to takeover speculation. Wallis's camp, behind the scenes, talked of a price of 300p or more. Some of the commentators they talked to felt much the same way. If RPR failed to adjust its sighting shot to nearer 300p (so the stories went) then a counter bidder doubtless would.

Talk turned to white knights, the favourite, on home turf, being Zeneca. The reality is that Zeneca, along with several other companies, ran a sliderule over Fisons long ago. But why would Zeneca, whose finance director happens to be John Mayo, a former denizen of SG Warburg, lob in a bid of 300p if Fisons had failed to hold appeal when the shares stood at less than half this price? Casual observers have been sceptical over the prospect of a counter bid from the outset but, that said, reams have been written about the drug companies that may feel compelled to embrace Fisons's traditional Intal product — with sales of £204 million last year — and Tilade, with sales of £50 million.

Schering-Plough, a $15 billion US combine which ranks third in the $9 billion asthma market, has been widely referred to as a potential counter bidder, but has yet to stike. Astra has been mooted as an interested party but, then again, if Astra had wanted to acquire Fisons it would presumably have done so when it purchased the company's R&D operations. Much the same can be said for Glaxo, fresh from its £9 billion acquisition of Wellcome, as for Zeneca. The sums have been done in the past: why pay top dollar now? Lesser known enterprises include Schering of Germany, capitalised at around £3 billion, and Boehringer-Ingelheim, a private company.

As the spin doctors got to work, we discovered that the RPR/Fisons battle was littered with geniuses: one of the reasons I have studiously avoided all concerned. We learned how Wallis qualified as a chartered accountant at 21 before joining Chrysler, where he was appointed to Rootes, an event that: "whetted my appetite for turning a business around." On to Bowater, via mini-conglomerate Hestair and Octopus Publishing, where the company's capitalisation rose from £500 million when Wallis arrived at the packaging divison in 1988 to more than £2.5 billion in 1994 when he left.

Not quite as much, but more than enough, has also been written about Rob Cawthorn, the Yorkshireman billed as one of the few Brits to preside at the head of a boardroom across the Atlantic. Cawthorn is chairman of RPR, where he snapped up Revlon's drugs arm, a deal struck with Ron Perelman, the leveraged buyout specialist who acquired the rest of the cosmetics company.

Cawthorn was accompanied on his foray by Michel de Rosen, a Frenchman said to be of formidable intellect who has emerged as RPR's chief executive. Born of Russian immigrant parents, De Rosen learned cricket and rugby at an English prep school, graduated from the Ecole Nationale d'Administration and served the French Government both in the French Treasury and as financial attaché at the embassy in Washington.

It appears that despite such an array of talent, neither Cawthorn nor de Rosen have quite managed to communicate with Wallis, despite three brief meetings before RPR opted for a hostile offer.

In the event, RPR has not paid 300p a share and, instead, has raised its terms by some 10 per cent to a final 265p, subject to the appearance of a white knight. RPR has now acquired 18.2 per cent via market purchases and is clearly favourite to succeed. Strange how the parties, which have enjoyed a joint marketing venture, failed to discuss a little matter like a takeover bid in detail.

Greenalls takes over Boddington for £518m

By Patricia Tehan

GREENALLS, the pubs and restaurants group, has launched an agreed £518 million cash and share bid for rival Boddington that will result in the loss of 500 jobs early in the new year.

Directors and employees of Boddington will make an £8 million profit on the buyout of four million share options. Those with share options will make an average profit of 200p per share option. Hubert Reid, chairman of Boddington, will make a profit of £130,000 on his options — he exercised most of his options last year. Mr Reid will make £1.4 million on the sale of his 346,000 shares. Christopher Henry, property director, will make a profit of about £700,000 on his share options.

The redundancies will cost Greenalls £10 million. The bid, which follows widespread stock market speculation, will make Greenalls the UK's biggest pubs chain with 2,370 outlets, and the largest independent drinks retailer.

Andrew Thomas, chairman and chief executive of Greenalls, said the two firms started serious discussions at the end of July.

Mr Reid will become a non-executive director of Greenalls. Alan Smith, managing director, and Alan Rothwell, finance director, are not expected to stay with the merged group. Greenalls said it could save £18 million at the pre-tax level in the first year of the merger, with annual cost savings of over £8 million from closing Boddington offices and £4 million by closing 22 wholesaling depots.

The bid values Boddington shares at 412p, a 51 per cent premium to the closing Boddington share price on Wednesday, the day before takeover rumours sent shares higher. Last night, Boddington shares closed up 31½p at 389½p and Greenalls fell 26½p to 462p. Jonathan Goble, drinks analyst at BZW, said the price represented a full valuation and it was "hard to fault" the logic of the bid.

The valuation is based on a middle-market quotation for Greenalls of 488.5p a share.

The Stock Exchange is investigating the surge in the share price on Thursday morning. The rise in the shares forced Boddington to rush out an announcement confirming it was in talks on Thursday afternoon, and Greenalls made its announcement yesterday, several days earlier than it had planned.

Much of the buying of Boddington shares on Thursday appeared to be from private investors in the Manchester and Liverpool area, where both firms are located. The terms of the offer are 17 new Greenalls shares and £20 in cash for every 25 Boddington shares, with a partial cash alternative.

Greenalls expects pre-tax profits for the year to September 29, 1995, of not less than £100 million and will pay a final dividend of 8.44p a share, making a year total of 14.2p.

Tempus, page 28

GILL ALLEN

Andrew Thomas, left, and Hubert Reid yesterday

Ministers hint at more aid for dollar

From Anatole Kaletsky in Washington

FINANCE ministry officials gathering in Washington for the weekend's G7 and IMF meetings hinted yesterday that there was likely to be further joint action to boost the dollar against the yen next week.

But they held out little hope of any serious international co-ordination to help the beleaguered franc or stabilise other European currencies against the mark.

Robert Rubin, the US Treasury Secretary, speaking at a press conference yesterday afternoon, said that he was pleased by the way that currency markets had reacted to the joint actions of the G7 countries since last April, when the group of finance ministers and central bank governors had expressed their unanimous desire to see a stronger dollar.

"There have been significant currency movements which we have encouraged and welcome," he said.

When asked whether there would be further joint intervention to boost the dollar, he added: "I can't help but think that we will discuss currencies, and afterwards we will probably have something more to say."

However, when asked about the G7's attitude towards the currency turbulence in Europe and the waning prospects of European Monetary Union, Mr Rubin pointedly declined to express support for the EMU project.

He said: "It is very much to our benefit to see strong growth and prosperity in Europe. It is up to the Europeans to work out the pluses and minuses of EMU for themselves."

Speaking off the record, senior US and IMF officials indicated that there would be concern in Washington if France or other European countries were to raise interest rates in connection with the EMU crisis and thereby jeopardise the prospects for world growth.

This view was also shared by British and Japanese officials arriving in Washington for the G7 meeting.

Boeing workers to strike over pay

From Richard Thomson in New York

MORE than 32,000 workers at Boeing, the American aircraft manufacturer, are to go on strike after rejecting a management pay offer.

Leaders of the machinists' union said that two thirds of the 26,000 workers who voted had rejected the offer which management had put forward as its "best, final" proposal. Picketing of several main Boeing factories has begun in the first disruption at the company since 1989.

Although the company said it would try to continue production using non-union workers, the strike threatens to bring much of its production to a standstill. This is likely to give a strong competitive boost to the company's arch-rivals in Europe, including British Aerospace, which is part of Airbus Industrie, maker of the Airbus aircraft.

Part of the reason for the labour dispute is Boeing's efforts to cut costs to meet the competitive challenge of Airbus at a time of low demand for aircraft. It has cut its workforce by 16 per cent in the last two years and plans to increase subcontracting.

The Boeing workers are complaining mainly about a proposed change in medical benefits which would require them to pay $45 a month in premiums for health insurance they currently get for free. They want a commitment to greater job security and severance pay for laid-off workers. However, Boeing said it had no plans for further negotiations or a new offer.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Aran holds talks with white knight

ARAN ENERGY, the oil explorer contesting a £160 million cash bid from Arco, is in talks with a white knight. Aran shares jumped from 67p to 72p yesterday when the Irish company announced that it had been approached by a third party which may lead to an alternative offer. Aran declined to name the prospective bidder.

Speculation over the identity of the white knight centred on Statoil, the Norwegian national oil company. Aran and Statoil signed a joint venture agreement last month, one month after Arco launched its 61p per share bid, to develop Connemara, a field off the West Coast of Ireland. Enterprise Oil is also believed to be scouting for opportunities to replace its reserves and might be interested in Aran's acreage west of the Shetlands. Arco must decide whether to increase its offer by next Tuesday. Aran published an independent valuation of its assets which showed a net asset value of 106p a share.

Changes at Yorkshire

DEREK ROBERTS, chief executive of Yorkshire Building Society, will retire next April. He will be replaced by David Anderson, the director and general manager. In January 1997 Mr Roberts will become the non-executive chairman of the Yorkshire, the tenth largest society with assets of more than £6 billion. This week the society cut its mortgage rate for a second time in a month to 7.85 per cent and guaranteed that savers will receive a minimum rate of 2.75 per cent, regardless of how small the balance is. Mr Roberts said that this week's improved rates for borrowers and savers indicated the Yorkshire's "vigorous pro-mutuality stance".

Lloyd's sums up Opal

LLOYD'S OF LONDON says it will be at least another week before it knows whether it will suffer significant losses from Hurricane Opal, the fiercest for 25 years that has caused damage in five US states. The US authorities say Opal could cost $2.8 billion. A spokesman for Lloyd's said: "The damage would have to be in excess of $3.5 billion for Lloyd's to be significantly affected." Composite insurers, including Sun Alliance and Commercial Union claim they have little exposure to losses, although Royal Insurance has had an emergency team in place since Thursday to assess the impact.

MBO plan at Clarkson

HORACE CLARKSON, the insurance and shipbroking company, has received a preliminary approach for a buyout of the insurance broking division by its management. The company, which yesterday reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £2 million (£1.3 million) for the half year to June 30, said insurance earned just £100,000 on reduced turnover of £4.9 million in the first half, after slipping into the red in the first half of the previous year. Shipbroking earned £2.3 million on turnover of £15.1 million. The interim dividend is 1.25p (0.75p), due November 23. Earnings were 5.6p (2.5p) a share.

RMC Group expands

RMC GROUP, the building materials company, is expanding its builders' merchants operations with the acquisition of 23 Builders Mate outlets, with annual sales of £29.8 million, from Wickes. In a separate agreement, RMC is selling its four Bay 6 stores, together with leases to two further branches to open shortly, to Wickes. A new consideration of £9.3 million in respect of the two transactions is payable by RMC. At an extraordinary meeting yesterday shareholders of Wickes approved the disposal of the company's Hunter Timber subsidiary.

Baynes buys Bestobell

MEGGITT is selling Bestobell Valves to Charles Baynes, a fellow engineer, for £10 million as part of its restructuring. Bestobell supplies valves to the industrial gas and water markets.

Sacked dockers join queue for own jobs

By Our Industrial Correspondent

SOME 1,000 applications have been received by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company for the jobs of 300 dockers sacked after they staged an unofficial strike.

The dockers, members of the T&GWU, have been told they must apply for work in competition with new recruits if they wish to work for the company again.

The dockers were dismissed after they refused to cross a picket line mounted by 80 colleagues made redundant when an independent stevedoring company went out of business. Strikers voted on Thursday to call off the ten-day strike after union officials said that it could not be made an official dispute because no ballot had been held.

Mike Carden, T&GWU dockers' spokesman, said: "We are recommending a full resumption of work on Monday, but all our members, with an average 30 years' service in the industry, have received P45s which might make that a little bit difficult."

The company said it was pointless for the men to turn up on Monday: "If any of the men who have lost their jobs as a result of the unofficial action want to be considered, they too are invited to apply."

Italian helicopter order worth £150m to Westland

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

THE Italian navy has ordered 16 Anglo-Italian EH101 helicopters in a deal worth up to £150 million to Westland, the helicopter arm of GKN.

The £300 million contract, awarded to Agusta, Westland's 50/50 partner on the project, is the first by the Italian services for the twin-engined, medium-weight EH101. Britain's Defence Ministry has already ordered 44 anti-submarine versions and 22 aircraft in the army transport version.

Sir David Lees, GKN's chairman, said the order was a tremendous endorsement of the EH101 and of Westland's partnership with Agusta. The Italian order, he said, would strengthen the aircraft's considerable potential in export markets.

The Italian navy has ordered eight anti-submarine machines, four equipped with surveillance radar and four transport aircraft.

The EH101 programme received a setback in April after a prototype crashed in Cornwall. Test flights have now resumed and an official report on the cause of the accident will be published soon.

The partner companies will now turn their marketing drive to overseas opportunities. Both Canada and Saudi Arabia are seen as potential customers for the anti-submarine version of one of the most expensive helicopters ever built. Westland will also be hoping to sell the transport version to overseas armies, and civil versions to the offshore oil and gas industry.

Efforts to sell the EH101 will be hampered by the existence of a rival transport aircraft of similar lift capacity, the NH90, under development in a joint programme by France, Germany, Italy and Holland.

Procter & Gamble alleges systematic deception

New claims hit Bankers Trust

From Richard Thomson in New York

FRESH evidence throwing a damning light on practices at Bankers Trust, the New York investment bank, has emerged in a dramatic development affecting its legal battle with Procter & Gamble over derivatives deals 18 months ago.

P&G claims the evidence shows systematic deception by the bank that led to the company losing more than $100 million on deals in derivatives since 1993. Bankers Trust says that although comments by some of its employees were regrettable, there was no deception involved and that P&G was simply naive in its derivatives dealings.

P&G is suing Bankers Trust for nearly $200 million under anti-racketeering rules, which could oblige the bank to pay out treble damages plus costs if it is found guilty. The evidence is mostly in the form of some 6,500 tape recordings of conversations between Bankers Trust employees.

"What Bankers can do for Sony and IBM is get in the middle and rip them off — take a little money," says one employee, in what P&G says is typical of Bankers Trust's attitude to customers. P&G claims that Bankers Trust employees used the acronym ROF — short for "rip-off factor" — to describe one method of taking money off clients.

The evidence is published by *BusinessWeek*, a US business magazine, after a two-week battle to lift a court order banning publication. The magazine received the secret documents through a blunder by Bankers Trust's counsel, Sullivan & Cromwell, who were not aware of their confidentiality.

P&G claims its losses stemmed from several highly leveraged derivatives contracts, the valuation of which Bankers Trust refused to explain. It says this was deliberate deception. "Do they understand that? What they did?" one Bankers employees is quoted as saying. "No. They understand what they did but they don't understand the leverage, no," replies a colleague.

He also alleges that Bankers Trust paid P&G only half what a particular options contract was really worth and comments: "This could be a massive future gravy train."

The bank is already reeling under the impact of severely reduced profits and a series of settlements with other companies claiming they were misled. It has also been fined by US securities regulators.

Bankers Trust's derivatives business generated 42 per cent of its profits last year, but lost $171 million in the first half of this year.

TOURIST RATES

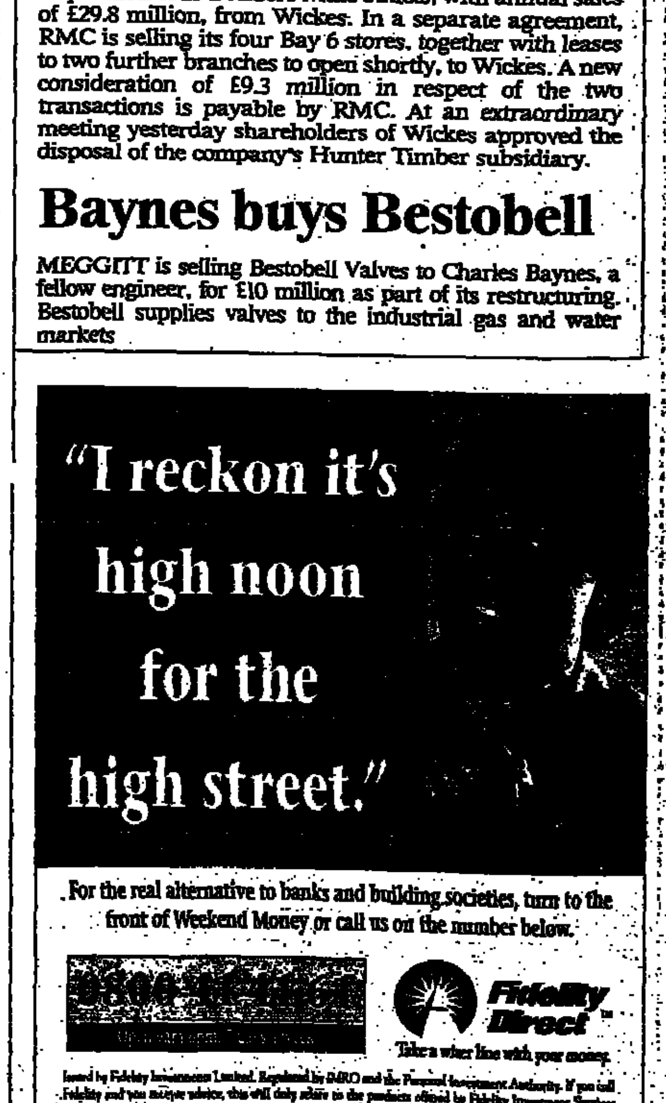
	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.19	2.03
Austria Sch	16.92	15.42
Belgium Fr	49.41	45.11
Canada $	2.225	2.065
Cyprus Cyp£	0.756	0.701
Denmark Kr	9.38	8.58
Finland Mkk	7.37	6.72
France Fr	8.24	7.59
Germany Dm	2.41	2.20
Greece Dr	385.00	360.00
Hong Kong $	12.89	11.89
Ireland Pt	1.03	0.95
Israel Shk	5.1585	4.5085
Italy Lira	2655.00	2500.00
Japan Yen	172.50	156.50
Malta	0.601	0.546
Netherlds Gld	2.681	2.451
New Zealand $	2.54	2.32
Norway Kr	10.52	9.72
Portugal Esc	247.50	229.00
S Africa Rd	ref.	5.52
Spain Pta	202.50	189.50
Sweden Kr	11.67	10.87
Switzerland Fr	1.95	1.77
Turkey Lira	refer	74826.0
USA $	1.681	1.551

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

"Tony Blair's conference speech announcement of a "deal" with BT was a *coup de theatre* which gratified the telecoms giant, embarrassed the government, shocked the cable companies and strengthened new Labour's business credentials. But there is less to the agreement than meets the eye"

Business — The Sunday Times tomorrow



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[illegible] أمن الأهرام

A WORKING WEEK FOR: ROD STAMLER

Making an honest living from fraud

A leading Canadian detective is in London as his firm branches out. **Jon Ashworth** investigates

DENZIL McNEELANCE

Rod Stamler, one of Canada's top sleuths, commutes by aircraft and can be called upon by his Toronto investigations firm to go to any country at the drop of a hat

A former Mountie turned international fraud investigator, Rod Stamler is not your ordinary commuter. He flies the 200 miles from his home in Ottawa to his office in Toronto, in his private Cessna 182 light aircraft, filming smugglers on the St Lawrence River with a handheld video camera. Two days later, he could be stepping off a plane in Ethiopia, ready to bust a cigarette-racketeering ring. Stamler is chief investigator of Canada's biggest independent firm of financial investigators, and he is ready to stamp his mark on Britain. White-collar fraudsters beware.

Stamler, 59, spent 33 years in the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), and has been hailed as one of Canada's top sleuths. He ran the RCMP's Economic and Commercial Crime Investigations Unit — Canada's answer to the Serious Fraud Office — and helped the United Nations to draw up an international convention to seize and freeze the proceeds of drug trafficking. He quit the Mounties in 1989 to join Lindquist Avey Macdonald Baskerville, a Toronto investigations firm, and flew into London this week to oversee the opening of the firm's first European office. Great things are promised.

> ‘He is unfazed by talk that his life is on the line’

Smuggling on the St Lawrence became an issue about four years ago, when the Canadian Government approved massive increases in the price of tobacco. Cigarettes manufactured in Canada were legally exported, then illicitly smuggled back in without tax being paid. "It was very easy to see the boats loaded with cigarettes running across the river," says Stamler, who spent four years gathering evidence from the air as part of a wide-ranging investigation. "You'd see trucks picking up those cigarettes on the other side. The volume was so great that even with 30 law enforcement officers assigned to that area, they couldn't really identify the pan-out, if you will, of that particular stock." Cigarette prices were later cut, wiping out the bootlegging almost overnight.

Lindquist Avey was called in by the Romanian Government after Nicolae Ceausescu was ousted and shot in December 1989. Stamler spent the first few months of 1990 working out of seedy Bucharest hotel rooms, attempting to trace millions of dollars in missing assets. "They assumed Ceausescu had been milking the country, but nobody knew how he was doing it," he recalls. "They wanted us to go straight to the Swiss bank accounts, but I said we should try and identify the system that was being used."

Stamler's inquiries led to a trading company with a head office in Cyprus, and branches in London, New York and Vienna. "It turned out to be the key, if you will, to how a man like Nicolae Ceausescu could strip funds from government treasury, and put them into his own possession. The president of the company was actually a British truck driver." In one instance, the Romanians bought heavily discounted British-made goods in return for giving orders to UK firms, and later sold the goods on to South Africa, which was willing to pay a high price to get around the trade embargo. Shoes, clothing and other goods costing £50 million were sold to Romania for £25 million, and then sold to the South Africans for £60 million. The difference was skimmed off into Swiss bank accounts. Stamler found $2 million in hard currency in a bank in Bucharest, and located a further $20 million in Nicosia.

He pointed the Romanians in the direction of Swiss bank accounts holding an estimated $90 million, and was only too happy to head home.

"The lights kept going out, and there was no power at night. You could see every filament in the light bulbs. When we got in there, there was no fresh food of any kind. We were living off spaghetti and stuff like that." A similar investigation involving a deposed dictator is currently under way.

A more recent assignment took Stamler to Ethiopia, where he advised the Government on ways of combating tobacco smuggling — one of his favourite subjects. "The Russian mafia, the traditional Italian Mafia, are really into this business in a big way. There are some big groups from the Middle East, and they're pumping cigarettes in through places like Djibouti." Goods arrive in containers and are dispersed by car and camel.

About two years ago, Stamler decided to investigate a former resident of Hong Kong who had set up office in Canada in some style and was offering a "foolproof" investment scheme. One of Stamler's clients wanted to invest $35 million, but the investigator told him to hang fire. "His credentials were impeccable," says Stamler. "He had great offices with beautiful furniture, and huge cars, and an aura of wealth surrounded him wherever he went." Closer digging revealed that a warrant for his arrest was outstanding in Hong Kong. "Some people can walk in and get things done and not put out very much money," says Stamler. "There's one individual who came into town with one US dollar, bought a cigar, and took over a big insurance company." Stamler has had some hairy moments — not least from the questionable forms of transport in some of the world's poorer countries.

He was landing in South America when the airliner's undercarriage collapsed, and the aircraft went skidding down the runway in a shower of sparks.

Worse was to come when touching down in Lubumbashi in Zaire in a Boeing 737. "The pilot hit the soft part of the earth before the runway, the aircraft bounced up and fell down, and we skidded sideways to the end of the runway," says Stamler. "I remember watching the wings when we hit going right down like this", he says, flapping his arms like an excited swan. "I thought, there must be some real stress on those wings. The pilot got out and kicked the tyres."

Close-calls aside, Stamler is outwardly unfazed by suggestions that his life might be on the line. "I've done a lot of investigations into organised crime, and I've never really walked into a life-threatening situation," he says. "I have had threatening calls in the middle of the night. Those were concerning, but at the same time, it seems that the organised criminals don't generally go after law enforcement investigators. Instead of having one person investigating, you'll have 50."

Attacks on policemen, he says, are usually done under the influence of drugs or alcohol, or triggered by domestic disputes. "Organised criminals, even though they kill each other, are generally doing it for a business reason as opposed to doing it with passion."

On a typical Monday, Stamler might leave his home in a suburb of Ottawa, drive to a nearby airport, and fly off past the Parliament Buildings on his way to the office. He lands at Toronto City Centre airport (on an island in Lake Ontario), takes a ferry to the shore, and strolls a few blocks to Lindquist Avey's offices. He has an apartment in Toronto and typically flies home a couple of times a week. "It's an hour and 20 minutes direct flight, and some people who commute in from the outskirts are sitting behind the wheel of a car a lot longer. I can snap on the auto-pilot at 4,500 feet and read the newspaper on the way in."

Lindquist Avey is intent on building a European bridgehead from its new London base. The firm has hired Monica Bond, a former senior forensic accountant at KPMG, and Alec Edwards, former senior detective superintendent at Scotland Yard's international organised crime branch. International operations will in future be led from London.

Tedd Avey and Ted Baskerville joined Stamler on his London recce. They insist there is ample scope for a new player. Avey says: "London is one of the three key financial centres in the world. The extent of fraud has really exploded since the late Eighties. We just felt that London was the place to be." Baskerville adds: "This is a financial centre that has tentacles reaching into Europe."

Stamler will be back home in Ottawa this weekend, safe in the knowledge that there is plenty of work to keep him busy. "Typically, I'll get a call from a senior financial officer saying a forged cheque for $4 million is about to be passed," he laughs. "I might find myself in Taiwan before the week is out."

HIDDEN ASSETS

A water 'industry' on tap

Lindsay Cook finds out what goes on below the surface at Abbey's head office

As water companies try to take over electricity companies, one financial institution is keeping very quiet about its own water "industry". Abbey National, the building society turned bank, was able to smile during the drought months in the knowledge that it would never have the tap turned off because it owns and controls the supply of water to its head office.

A 600ft borehole was drilled at Abbey House in 1938 for the then Abbey Road Building Society at its new building, complete with a peal of bells towering 150 feet above Baker Street. The building, with its impressive banking hall floored and walled in Subiaco and Zola marble, takes in the fictional address of Sherlock Holmes.

Deep below the marble, a pipework system was constructed after the building was officially opened by Ramsay MacDonald, the Prime Minister, in 1932. It takes water from the borehole and delivers it to sinks, washrooms, heating systems and the kitchens.

It has continued to provide all the water needed since and is now responsible for supplying the cooling towers. In 1981, the building was refurbished and the pumping sets replaced and stainless steel pipes installed. At the time, Clive Thornton was chief executive of the society and the water supply exceeded the needs of the 450 or so staff in the building. He decided that charity could benefit from the sale of Abbey spring water.

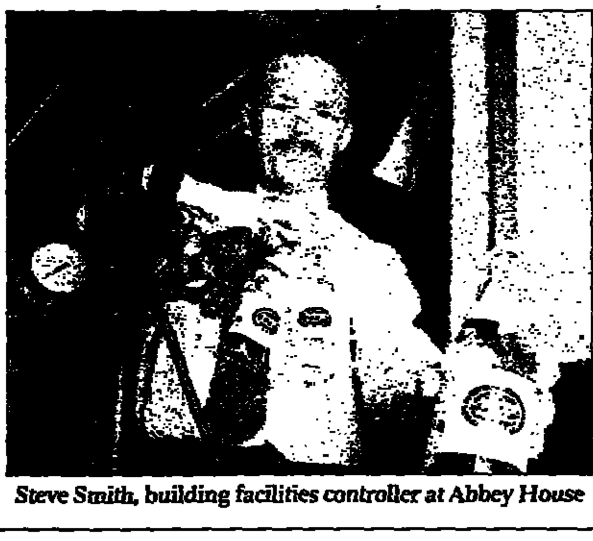
In 1993, it was discovered that there was too much sodium and magnesium in the water and a reverse osmosis plant was installed along with a water softener plant to filter out chemicals and take the water above EU standards. Steve Taylor, facilities manager for the Abbey, said that the water supply was a serious business proposition as it was cheaper to inspect and pump the water and make sure it conformed to hygiene and EU standards than to pay the bills that Thames Water would charge.

And it is not the water that is used that worries Mr Taylor. If the bank were being charged by an outside water company, it would be the water washing down the drain unused that tips the balance in favour of having a private supply. The bank only pays sewage charges to Thames Water and has been immune to rising water charges after the privatisation of the utility.

The water tastes very similar to any other London water, so many in the building are unaware of their spa in the basement.

The drought this summer did not affect the borehole and currently the water table is rising, bringing the prospect of flooding rather than diminishing supply.

Abbey National was formed from the Abbey Road Society and National Building Society in 1944, although it can trace its history back over a hundred years. National was founded in 1849 by, among others, Richard Cobden and Joseph Humer, campaigners for universal male suffrage. Only those who owned 40 shillings' worth of land had the vote so the new society was not only a way of providing homes but also votes. Now that the water companies have fallen out of favour with their customers, Abbey could look to its bottling plant again.



Steve Smith, building facilities controller at Abbey House

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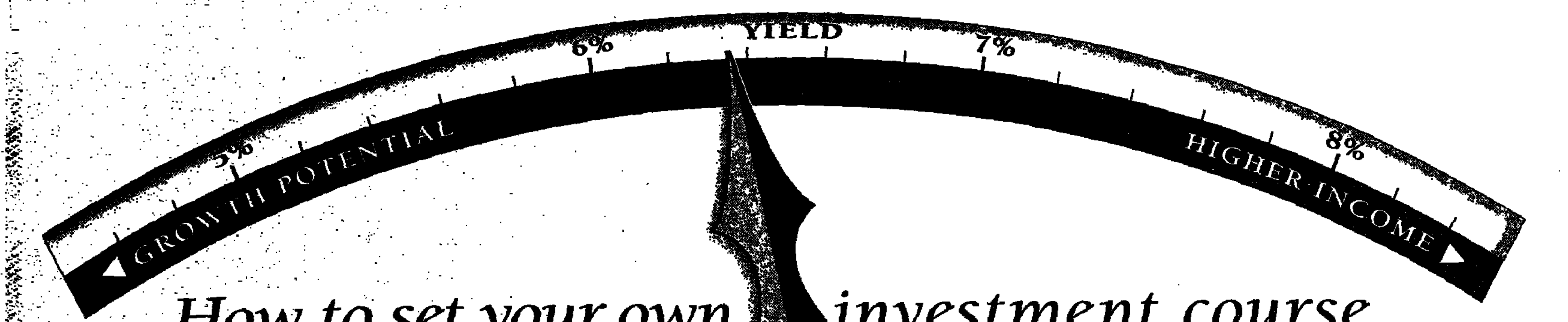

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STOCK MARKET MICHAEL CLARK

GEC shares rise on talk on boardroom shake-up

SHARES in GEC stood out in a falling market after coming within a whisker of their year's high with a rise of 9½p to 339½p. Brokers say that news of a major boardroom reshuffle may be on the way.

The changes, which could be implemented in the new year, may see Lord Weinstock, 71, the man responsible for building the company's fortunes over the years, stepping down as managing director. Such a move would be welcomed by the financial institutions, who have been unsuccessfully applying pressure to GEC for some time for him to retire. Many of them view GEC these days as a sleeping giant content to rely on its cash mountain to achieve profits growth.

GEC shares have consistently underperformed the rest of the market and the City appears to have convinced itself that a new management and the implementation of new strategies would provide the shares with a new lease of life and unlock the group's hidden value.

Many brokers see GEC as a long-term play but are already talking the price up to 400p in the short-term as they attempt to assess the group's potential. But some of the market's old stagers cannot help thinking that if Lord Weinstock does choose to go now, he may go out with bang, perhaps on the back of a successful mega-bid.

The rest of the equity market ended the week on a drab note, with share prices ignoring a positive performance overnight on Wall Street. Sentiment was undermined by the latest industrial production figures and continued nervousness on European foreign exchanges ahead of this weekend's G7 meeting. Investors appeared reluctant to open fresh positions before next week's Conservative Party conference.

The FT-SE 100 index was down almost 30 points at one stage, but rallied to close off the bottom on the back of another firm showing by the Dow Jones Average in New York. It eventually closed 17.9 lower at 3,526.5, reducing the rise on the week to 6.3. Turnover fell to 635 million shares.

Eurotunnel touched an all-time low of 86p after unveiling first-half losses of £464.5 million. The figure was struck after depreciation of £68 million and interest charges of £365 million relating to the company's £8 billion of debt.

ScottishPower's Ian Russell, left, and Ian Robinson yesterday

Sir Alastair Morton, co-chairman, said he hoped to put proposals for a rescheduling of debt to the consortium of 220 banks by the end of January. The group expects revenue to reach £275 million for the year. In the first half revenues reached £104.5 million. Sir Alastair also said that outstanding legal claims against TransManche Link, the consortium of construction companies that helped build the tunnel, could top £2 billion. The shares finished all-square at 92p compared with a high for the year of 324p.

ScottishPower's chief executive Ian Robinson and finance director Ian Russell, saw the electricity company's shares rise 5½p to 357½p as they celebrated victory in the battle for control of Manweb. The £1.1 billion offer has, so far, received acceptances of 32 per cent. This, combined with the 28 per cent of Manweb shares that it bought in the market-place, stretches the total to 60 per cent. In accepting the terms of the bid, Manweb shareholders spurned a loyalty package worth almost £600 million.

Boddington Group jumped a further 31½p to 389½p, for a two-day rise of 117.5p, after agreeing terms of a £518 million bid from the rival pubs chain **Greenalls**. The terms are 17 Greenalls shares and £20 in cash for every 25 Boddington shares. The deal values Boddington at 412p a share. Greenalls went on to forecast pre-tax profits of £100 million for the current year compared with £74.8 million last time. Its shares finished 26½p down at 462p.

Reuters finished 1p lighter at 552p as more than one million shares changed hands. The share may perform better next week, with brokers embarking this weekend on a tour of the group's operations in the Far East, the news and information organisation's strongest growth market.

Rhône Poulenc-Rorer was back in the marketplace mopping up more shares in **Fisons** after increasing the terms of its bid on Thursday from 240p to 265p a share. ABN Amro Hoare Govett was known to be bidding up to 265p in the marketplace but appears to have achieved only limited success. By the close of business a total of 23.6 million shares had changed hands, with RPR now accounting for 18 per cent of Fisons, ½p firmer at 264p.

MFI Furniture rose 6p to 144p on turnover of almost 6.5 million shares as brokers continued to reflect on their visit to the group's French operations on Thursday. France still accounts for only a small part of overall group sales but is growing rapidly. The group managed to reassure the brokers about current trading prospects despite the continuing depressed backdrop to consumer spending.

Trafalgar House firmed 1p to 31p on the news that it had sold the Ritz Hotel to the Barclay Brothers, owners of the Howard Hotel and *The European* newspaper, for £75 million. The Ritz was on Trafalgar's books for £60 million. The proceeds will be used to reduce debt.

Morrison Group, the construction company, enjoyed a positive start to first-time trading after a placing and intermediary offer at 115p. The *shares opened at 120p before* closing at 118p.

☐ **GILT-EDGED:** Losses of more than £1 were recorded at *one stage after the market was* unsettled by disappointing industrial production figures and US payroll numbers. But the appearance of bargain hunters in late trading enabled prices to rally sharply before closing with small losses on the day.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt touched £104³¹/₃₂ before rallying to reduce the fall to just £⅛ on the day at £105²⁷/₃₂. A total of 81,000 contracts were completed.

Among conventional issues, **Treasury 8 per cent 2013** eased £⅛, to £97²³/₃₂, as did **Treasury 8 per cent 2000** in shorts to close at £102⅛.

☐ **NEW YORK:** *Shares on* Wall Street added to Thursday's gains, helped by stronger interest in bonds. By *midday the Dow Jones industrial* index was 7.95 points higher at 4,770.66.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

	Current price	Week's change	
Boddingtons	389½p	+123½p	Agreed bid Greenalls
Greenalls	*462p*	*-38p*	*Bid for Boddingtons*
Southern Electric	960p	+63p	Agreed bid from National Power
London Electricity	900p	+35p	Bid speculation
First Choice	70p	-18p	Profits warning
Euromoney	£10.80	-315p	Profits warning
British Airways	464p	+14p	US associate in bid talks
Country Casuals	132p	+18p	Bid approach
Neotronics Technology	52p	-9p	£500,000 restructuring charge

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):	
Dow Jones	4770.66 (+7.95)
S&P Composite	583.55 (+0.92)
Tokyo:	
Nikkei Average	18506.28 (+285.87)
Hong Kong:	
Hang Seng	9873.90 (-14.14)
Amsterdam:	
EOE Index	462.21 (-0.47)
Sydney:	
AO	2098.20 (-4.5)
Frankfurt:	
DAX	2171.43 (-37.39)
Singapore:	
Straits	2142.00 (-1.56)
Brussels:	
General	7836.63 (-7.64)
Paris:	
CAC-40	1809.57 (+9.25)
Zurich:	
SKA Gen	694.90 (+3.20)
London:	
FT 30	2612.9 (-12.5)
FT 100	3526.5 (-17.9)
FT-SE Mid 250	3979.0 (-12.3)
FT-SE-A 350	1763.4 (-8.1)
FT-SE Eurotrack 100	1401.61 (-20.82)
FT A All-Share	1743.38 (-7.37)
FT Non Financials	1864.62 (-8.01)
FT Fixed Interest	111.55 (-0.23)
FT Govt Secs	93.11 (-0.23)
Bargains	28451
SEAQ Volume	666.0m
USM (Datastrm)	*181.86 (-0.19)*
US$	1.5813 (-0.0012)
German Mark	2.2562 (-0.0071)
Exchange Index	85.1 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
£:ECU	1.2017
£:SDR	1.0614
RPI	149.9 Aug (3.6%) Jan 1987=100
RPIX	148.6 Aug (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

RECENT ISSUES

Consolidated C (50)	64	...
Euro Sales Fin	125	...
Hay & Robertson	39	...
Inner Workings	71	- 2
Mayflower (65)	88	...
MultiMedia (45)	61	...
Murray Vct	105	...
Omnicare	88	...
Pemberstone	60	...
Pictet British (100)	102	...
Preston Nth (400)	400	...
SCS Sat Sys (125)	*128*	...
Uni Salvage (149)	183	+ 2
Upton & Sthn Wts	½	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

Alumasc n/p (320)	100	- 2
Anglo-East n/p (105)	16	...
Baris n/p (16)	1	...
Close Bros n/p (275)	37	+ 1
Forth Ports n/p (490)	103	...
Johnsn Mat n/p (500)	81	...
RMC n/p (950)	133	- 5

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Brammer	482p (+9p)
Amstrad	278p (+9½p)
Azlan	420p (+70p)
Telspec	756p (+23p)
Chemring	370p (+8p)
Siebe	733p (+9p)
Emap	558p (+12p)
MAID	274p (+23p)
St Ives Gp	392p (+9p)
Frost Group	247p (+9p)
JJB Sports	408p (+8p)
FALLS:	
BPB Ind	307p (-7p)
Meyer Int	320p (-8p)
ICI	815p (-18p)
Danka Bs Sys	554p (-10p)
Com Union	585p (-9p)
Gen Accident	624p (-8p)
Pearson	593p (-10p)
Kwik Save	685p (-7p)
GUS	584p (-12p)
OS Hldgs	65p (-22p)
Allied Dom	*525p (-14p)*
Grand Met	430p (-15p)

Closing Prices Page 41

TEMPUS

No pain no gain

BEMUSED Eurotunnel shareholders were told yesterday that a new seat had been created in the company's boardroom, to be occupied by Maurice Le Maire, a shareholder and former director of Total. His job, apparently, will be to communicate with other shareholders and deal with their concerns.

Eurotunnel shareholders, who seem to believe that they own the company, may have been under the misapprehension that they had hired Sir Alastair Morton and his colleagues to deal with their concerns. But the new *director could usefully answer a few* questions raised by the company's interim statement, which declares that the pain for both banks and shareholders will be great if it cannot succeed in its claims against the contractors and Eurostar as well as in its plea to the British and French governments to stop subsidising the ferries. *It is uncertain of the* outcome of the claims and virtually rules out raising capital in the short term.

How then is Eurotunnel to reduce its debts? The company could *quite quickly* make a profit without its £8 billion of borrowings. The tunnel will soon be making over £300 million a year, enough to cover costs. Eurotunnel *declares that it and the* banks are at one in ruling out a failure, which leaves only one sensible solution: a massive debt for equity swap. The banks are, in effect, injecting new *capital into* Eurotunnel every day as interest is rolled up. The daily drip is swamping the share price: Eurotunnel is reluctant to contemplate shareholder dilution, but the reality is that banks are now subsidising shareholders. The sooner that is resolved, the better.

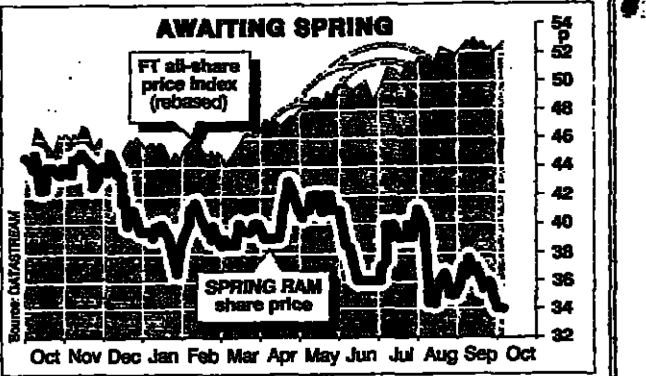
Spring Ram

SHAREHOLDERS seeking hidden value will be looking carefully at the slumbering housing market as they peruse the prices page of their newspaper. Counter-cyclical investors want a useful way of gearing their investments to a recovery.

Spring Ram has been a casualty of the collapse in the volume of house transactions and of the fall in consumer confidence. New management moved in two years ago with the backing of institutions amid confident predictions that it would sort out the mess left by its charismatic former chairman.

However, the mess proved larger than expected and the market fell apart from under the new team. Spring Ram sells into the repair and maintenance market, chiefly to DIY sheds. But the new team, under Roger Regan, is building up its presence at builders' merchants, long ignored, and is targeting exports. From a nil base two years ago, Spring Ram now has some £40 million in exports in Europe and the US. *Factories are planned in* both Malaysia and the US.

Exports are more profitable than sales in the comatose British market but the key to Spring Ram's future is operational gearing. Its massive Scunthorpe plant is running *at a third of its capacity* but even at those levels, after massive pruning, it makes a profit. When the market *returns*, Spring Ram could well live up to its name and offer an interesting prospect to a bidder.



Boddington

HOW ironic that Boddington will now be merged with Devenish. The Cheshire drinks company fought so *hard for Devenish*, only to see it taken over and successfully integrated with Greenalls two years ago.

It is hard to fault the logic of Greenalls bid for Boddington even though yesterday's £518 million offer is £218 million more than the market value of the company on the previous day. The price — a multiple of 21.6 times Boddington's adjusted earnings for the year to January — looks high at first glance but the key to unlocking value is in cutting overheads at Boddington.

Greenalls believes the close geographical position and the operation overlaps of the two will enable it to extract savings that will contribute at least £18 million to pre-tax profits of the enlarged group *in the current financial year.*

But the bid will slow down Greenall's ambitions elsewhere. Spending more than £500 *million to takeover* the neighbouring pubs group in the Northwest will prevent Greenalls from achieving its ambition of expanding into the south of England. That is, unless Greenalls sells Country House, Boddington's nursing home business. Such a sale could bring in around £75 million, enough to make a sizeable infill acquisition.

Trafalgar House

Trafalgar House sold the family silver yesterday. Still reeling from its failed bid for Northern Electric and a costly refit of the QE2, the troubled construction group has been engaged in a corporate boot sale. Now it has finally found a buyer for a much-*loved but overrated jewel.*

That in itself is no surprise. It's been so long since the cash-strapped group was *able to put on the Ritz that* months ago Trafalgar decided to put it up for sales instead. But times have been hard in the hotel business and only now has a buyer made an offer that didn't cause Trafalgar to wince.

At £75 million the sale should just about match expected losses for the year. Coming just after the group's year end of September 30, it will not be able to put any glitz on the final figures.

The sale of the Ritz will have little impact on Trafalgar House which at the end of the half year net debt in the balance sheet of £248 million.

Trafalgar needs the impact of bigger numbers, hence its attempted takeover of Northern Electric which would have helped them to recover about £250 million in ACT — a huge attraction for a group with a heavy reliance on overseas earnings. Such prizes might have offered Trafalgar a future but ridding itself of the Ritz only delays the day of reckoning.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

COCOA

Dec	894-893	Mar	1014-1011
Mar	924-923	May	1030-1024
May	943-942	Jul	unq
Jul	961-960	Sep	
Sep	977-976		
Dec	995-994		Volume: 10567

ROBUSTA COFFEE ($)

Nov	2365-2360	Jul	2120-2100
Jan	2265-2260	Sep	2090-2060
Mar	2208-2205	Nov	2080-2060
May	2150-2145		Volume: 5057

WHITE SUGAR (FOB)

Reuters		Aug	313.5-12.7
Spot: 375.6		Oct	288.0-87.2
Dec	338.5-38.0	Dec	286.3-85.5
Mar	320.0-19.6	Mar	284.8-83.0
May	316.5-15.7		Volume: 2026

MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION

Average fatstock prices at representative markets on October 5

(p/kg lw)	Pig	Sheep	Cattle
GB:	101.76	100.91	127.03
(+/-)	+5.00	-2.02	-2.21
Eng/Wales:	101.75	101.04	126.42
(+/-)	+4.92	-2.11	-2.74
(%)	-13.0	-1.0	-13.0
Scotland:	103.12	100.15	129.71
(+/-)	+13.52	-1.53	+0.13
(%)	-16.0	-5.0	-18.0

ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	15.90	n/c
Brent 15 day (Nov)	15.70	n/c
Brent 15 day (Dec)	15.55	n/c
W Texas Intermediate (Nov)	17.00	+0.05
W Texas Intermediate (Dec)	16.75	+0.05

PRODUCTS ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Gas .15	B: 170 (+1)	O: 173 (+2)
Gasoil EEC	148 (n/c)	149 (-1)
Non EEC 1H Oct	149 (n/c)	150 (n/c)
Non EEC 1H Nov	149 (n/c)	150 (-1)
3.5 Fuel Oil	82 (n/c)	86 (+2)
Naphtha	153 (+2)	155 (+2)

IPE FUTURES (GNI Ltd)

GAS OIL

Oct	146.25-46.50	Jan	148.25-48.50
Nov	147.50-47.75	Feb	148.00-48.25
Dec	148.00-48.25		Vol: 11113

BRENT (6.00pm)

Nov	15.67-15.69	Feb	15.44-15.46
Dec	15.54-15.56	Mar	15.44 SLR
Jan	15.47-15.50		Vol: 26019

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

WHEAT (close £/t)		BARLEY (close £/t)	
Nov	114.70	Nov	107.50
Jan	117.45	Jan	110.60
Mar	119.35	Mar	112.55
May	121.30	May	114.95
Jul	122.90	Sep	103.50
Volume: 237		Volume: 105	

POTATO (£/t)

	Open	Close
Apr	278.5	282.0
May	unq	327.5
Jun	—	360.5
		Volume: 36

RUBBER (No 1 RSS Cif p/k)

Nov 90.75-91.25

BIFFEX (GNI Ltd $10/pt)

	High	Low	Close
Oct 95	1780	1755	1755
Nov 95	1780	1735	1735
Dec 95	1730	1720	1720
Jan 96	1721	1685	1685
Vol: 331 lots		Open interest: 3464	

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LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

(Official) (Volume prev day)	Cash	3mth	Rudolf Wolff Vol
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)	2854.0-2855.0	2821.0-2822.0	1220100
Lead ($/tonne)	596.50-597.00	607.00-607.50	172900
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)	994.00-995.00	1018.0-1019.0	250350
Tin ($/tonne)	*6265.0-6270.0*	*6265.0-6270.0*	*21535*
Aluminium Hi Gde ($/tonne)	1763.0-1763.5	1795.0-1796.0	1168500
Nickel ($/tonne)	7920.0-7925.0	8050.0-8055.0	56610

LIFFE OPTIONS

Series		Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Puts Oct	Puts Jan	Puts Apr
Alld Dom.	500	27½	36½	43	1	12½	17
(*525)	550	1½	9½	18½	25½	40½	44½
Argyll	330	17½	27	35	1	9	13
(*346)	360	1½	12½	19½	15½	25	28
ASDA	100	6	10½	12½	1	3½	5
(*105)	110	1	5½	8	6	8½	10
Boots	550	30	41½	54	1	9	14
(*578½)	600	1½	14½	27	22½	33½	38
Br Airways	460	11½	25½	37½	6	16	22
(*465)	500	0½	9	19½	35	41	49½
BP	460	20½	31½	37½	1	8½	14
(*478½)	500	1	10	17½	22	29	34
Br Steel	160	14½	17	21	0	3½	5
(*174)	180	1	6	10	7	12½	14½
C & W	390	30	41½	52	0½	9	13
(*419½)	420	8	24½	35	8½	21	25
CU	550	36	51½	63½	1	9	19
(*584½)	600	3	22½	34½	18	29	41½
ICI	800	20	45½	59½	4½	19½	33
(*814½)	850	1½	21	34	36	45½	59½
Kingfishr	500	11	30	42½	7	19	30½
(*503½)	550	0	10	20	46½	50½	60
Land Sec	600	16½	30	42	2	13	19½
(*612½)	650	0½	8½	18	37½	44	48
M & S	420	10½	22½	32	2½	10½	15½
(*427½)	460	0	6½	13½	32½	36	39
Nat West	600	25½	46½	53	2½	15	27½
(*621)	650	2	20½	28	30	40½	54½
Sainsbury	420	14	24	32½	1½	8½	12
(*430½)	460	0½	7	13½	29½	33	35
Shell	750	12	33	44	4½	12½	24
(*756½)	800	0	10	19½	43½	44	52
Smkl Bch	650	10½	32½	45½	6	23	30
(*654½)	700	0	12½	23	45½	53	59
Storehse	300	9	18	24½	2	10	13
(*306)	330	0	6	12	24	28	30
Trafalgar	30	2	3½	7½	1	6	6½
(*31)	35	0½	3½	5½	4½	9	9½
Unilever	1250	17½	45	67	8½	27	42
(*1255½)	1300	1½	22	42	44½	55½	69½
Zeneca	1150	25	77	100	9	43	64½
(*1162½)	1200	5½	52	75	37½	68½	90
Series		**Nov**	**Feb**	**May**	**Nov**	**Feb**	**May**
Grnd Met.	420	22½	29	36	8	18½	21½
(*430)	460	6½	14	18	32	42½	44½
Ladbroke	160	10½	16	19	1½	5	7½
(*167½)	180	1½	6	9	13	15	18
Utd Bisc	260	16	29½	31½	5½	10	13½
(*273)	280	5½	15	21	15	20	24

Series		Calls Oct	Calls Jan	Calls Apr	Puts Oct	Puts Jan	Puts Apr
BAA	460	32	42	52	0	6	9½
(*491)	500	3	17½	27½	11	22½	25½
Thames W	550	10	26½	39½	8	23½	29½
(*550½)	600	0	11	20½	49½	59½	63
Series		**Nov**	**Feb**	**May**	**Nov**	**Feb**	**May**
BAT Ind	500	45½	60½	66½	2	9	16½
(*540)	550	11½	30	37	19	28	39
BTR	300	24	31½	35	1	4	8
(*321)	330	4½	13½	17	11½	16	22
Br Aero	700	62½	84	94	6	18	26
(*749½)	750	30	53½	66	22½	37	46½
Br Telcm	390	17	22	28	4½	11½	14
(*398½)	420	4	8	14	22	29½	31
Cadbury	460	41½	54	58	1	6	11½
(*497)	500	11	27½	32½	12	20	27½
Guinness	500	24	38	43½	9½	12	20
(*520)	550	2½	14½	20	37	40½	46½
GEC	330	15½	23	30	3	8	10½
(*340½)	360	2	8½	15	20	24	26
Hanson	191	10	14	—	2½	7½	—
(*198)	211	1	5	—	14	19½	—
LASMO	160	6	13	14½	5	8½	10
(*160½)	180	0½	5	6½	19½	21	22½
Lucas	200	8	15	19	8	12½	14
(*204)	220	2	7½	11	22½	25	26
Pilkingtn	200	9	16	21	5	10	11
(*209)	220	1½	7½	12	18	22	22
Prudential	360	21	32	37½	5	11	18½
(*377½)	390	5½	16	22	20	25½	34
Redland	360	21	31½	39½	4	11½	18½
(*378)	390	5½	16½	24	20½	26½	34
R-Royce	160	16	21½	24	1	3½	6
(*175½)	180	3½	10	13	9	12½	15½
Tesco	300	22	30½	35½	2	6	10½
(*317½)	330	5	13½	18½	15	19½	24½
Vodafone	260	10	17½	24	9½	14½	17½
(*260½)	280	3½	9½	15	21	26	29
Williams	330	7½	19	25½	7	11	16½
(*330)	360	1½	7	10½	30	31	35

FT-SE INDEX (*3526)

	3400	3450	3500	3550	3600	3650
Calls						
Oct	133½	88½	50	21½	7½	2
Nov	159½	119½	85	57	34	17½
Dec	194½	147	114½	84½	61½	42½
Jan	204	—	139	—	87½	—
Jun	270	—	206½	—	159½	—
Puts						
Oct	6	11	22	45½	84½	134
Nov	20½	31	47	70	99½	136½
Dec	36	48½	67	88	116½	150
Jan	48½	—	93	—	133	—
Jun	97½	—	132½	—	180	—

Series		Calls Dec	Calls Mar	Calls Jun	Puts Dec	Puts Mar	Puts Jun
Abby Nat	550	26½	40	43½	15½	29	34½
(*553½)	600	8	18½	22	48	60	64½
Amstrad	260	25½	32½	39	5½	10	12½
(*278)	280	14	21½	28½	14	19	21½
Barclays	700	64½	80½	87	6½	19	24½
(*748½)	750	31	48	57	23	39	46
Blue Circ	300	20½	29½	33½	7½	13	19½
(*308½)	330	7	15½	19½	24½	29	35½
Br Gas	240	20	24½	27	2½	5	6½
(*259)	260	7½	13	15½	10½	13	18
Dixons	360	36	33½	42½	9	17	19
(*371½)	390	11½	19	27½	25	32½	34
Forte	240	10	16	19	8	11½	15½
(*241½)	260	4	7½	10½	22	24	27½
Tarmac	90	7½	11½	13	4½	6½	9½
(*92½)	100	3½	6	8½	10½	12½	15
Hillsdwn	160	15½	19½	21	2	4½	8½
(*173½)	180	4	8½	10	11½	13	18½
Lonrho	160	12½	16	19	4½	7½	9
(*165½)	180	4	7	10½	16½	19	20
Sears	110	5½	8	9½	4½	5½	7½
(*111½)	120	2	4	5½	11	11	13½
Thrn Eml	1450	77	107½	142½	27½	41½	49
(*1483½)	1500	51½	80½	114	50½	64½	69
Tomkins	240	17	22½	28	5	10½	11½
(*248½)	260	7½	14	18	15	18½	21½
TSB	260	22½	29	33	5	11	13
(*274)	280	10½	18	22½	13	20½	23
Series		**Oct**	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Oct**	**Jan**	**Apr**
Glaxo Well	750	29½	53½	66	2½	15	26½
(*776)	800	3½	26½	40	26	38	50½
HSBC	900	34	68½	91	6½	27½	51
(*925)	950	9	42½	65½	30½	50½	76½
Reuter	550	13	34½	47	7½	20	30
(*552)	600	1	13	25	48	51½	58
Series		**Oct**	**Jan**	**Apr**	**Oct**	**Jan**	**Apr**
Royal Ins	360	13	28½	36½	3½	15½	23½
(*369½)	390	1½	15	22½	21½	30	41
Series		**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**
Fisons	260	5	5½	4½	1½	2	2½
(*264)	280	0	0½	0	17½	18	19
Series		**Nov**	**Feb**	**May**	**Nov**	**Feb**	**May**
Eastern Gp	950	25½	29	27½	0½	1	0
(*972½)	1000	1	0½	0	27½	31	32
Series		**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**	**Dec**	**Mar**	**Jun**
Nat'l Pwr	460	32	43	48	7	11½	17½
(*484)	500	10½	21	27½	26	30	36
Scot Pwr	330	35	39½	45½	4	7½	8½
(*357½)	360	15	20½	27	12½	19	20

October 6, 1995 Tot: 22338 Call: 10205 Put: 12133 FT-SE Call: 1985 Put: 3977

*Underlying security price.

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100 *Previous open interest: 64663*	Dec 95	3571.0	3578.0	3532.0	3551.0	12278
	Mar 96				3584.0	0
FT-SE 250 Previous open interest: 3538	Dec 95				4005.0	0
	Mar 96					0
Three Month Sterling Previous open interest: 351033	Dec 95	93.43	93.44	93.33	93.39	26371
	Mar 96	93.50	93.52	93.39	93.49	32071
	Jun 96	*93.47*	*93.48*	*93.37*	*93.46*	*21069*
Three Mth Eurodollar Previous open interest: 110	Dec 95				94.26	0
	Mar 96				94.41	0
Three Mth Euro DM Previous open interest: 745395	Dec 95	96.04	96.08	96.04	96.06	29830
	Mar 96	96.13	96.18	96.12	96.17	33997
Long Gilt Previous open interest: 99431	Dec 95	105-27	105-31	104-31	105-27	81704
	Mar 96	105-01	105-01	105-00	105-10	200
Japanese Govmt Bond	Dec 95	121.01	121.04	120.83	120.94	2684
	Mar 96	119.92	119.96	119.92	119.90	63
German Gov Bd Bund Previous open interest: 186958	Dec 95	95.52	95.68	95.06	95.60	183630
	Mar 96	94.88	94.88	94.64	95.02	72
Three month ECU Previous open interest: 17870	Dec 95	94.28	94.32	94.05	94.17	3738
	Mar 96	94.35	94.43	94.25	94.40	1192
Euro Swiss Franc *Previous open interest: 45133*	Dec 95	97.63	97.71	97.62	97.68	7549
	Mar 96	*97.70*	*97.81*	*97.70*	*97.78*	*6069*
Italian Govmt Bond Previous open interest: 44927	Dec 95	101.47	101.65	100.85	101.49	49156
	Mar 96				101.14	0

MONEY RATES (%)

Base Rates: Clearing Banks 6¾ Finance Hse 7
Discount Market Loans: O/night high: 7 Low 6½ Week fixed: 6¹¹⁄₁₆
Treasury Bills (Dis): Buy: 2 mth 6¹⁹⁄₃₂ ; 3 mth 6½ . Sell: 2 mth 6¹⁹⁄₃₂ ; 3 mth: 6¹⁵⁄₃₂ .

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Prime Bank Bills (Dis):	6²¹⁄₃₂-6⅝	6²¹⁄₃₂-6¹⁹⁄₃₂	6⅝-6⁹⁄₁₆	6¹¹⁄₁₆-6⅝	
Sterling Money Rates:	6¾-6¹¹⁄₁₆	6¾-6¹¹⁄₁₆	6¾-6¹¹⁄₁₆	6¾-6¹¹⁄₁₆	6¾-6¹¹⁄₁₆
Interbank:	6¾-6¹¹⁄₁₆	6¾-6¹¹⁄₁₆	6¾-6¹¹⁄₁₆	6¾-6¹¹⁄₁₆	6¾-6¹¹⁄₁₆

Overnight: open 6¾, close 6½ .

Local Authority Deps:	6¾	n/a	6¾	6¾	6¾
Sterling CDs:	6²¹⁄₃₂-6¹⁹⁄₃₂	6²¹⁄₃₂-6¹⁹⁄₃₂	6²¹⁄₃₂-6¹⁹⁄₃₂	6²¹⁄₃₂-6¹⁹⁄₃₂	6²¹⁄₃₂-6¹⁹⁄₃₂
Dollar CDs:	5.77	n/a	5.80	5.78	5.80
Building Society CDs:	6¾-6¹¹⁄₁₆	6¾-6¹¹⁄₁₆	6¾-6¹¹⁄₁₆	6¾-6¹¹⁄₁₆	6¾-6¹¹⁄₁₆

TREASURY BILLS: Applcts: £3.795m allotted: £1,500m: Bids: £98.355% received: *27%: Last week: £98.365% received: 88%: Avge rate: £6.5775% last wk £6.5378%: Next* week: £1,500m.

EUROPEAN MONEY DEPOSITS (%)

Currency	7 day	1 mth	3 mth	6 mth	Call
Dollar:	5¹¹⁄₁₆-5⁹⁄₁₆	5⅞-5¾	5¹³⁄₁₆-5¹¹⁄₁₆	5⅞-5¾	5½-4½
Deutschemark:	4⅛-3⅞	4¹⁄₁₆-3⅞	4¹⁄₁₆-3¹⁵⁄₁₆	4¹⁄₁₆-3¹⁵⁄₁₆	4⅛-3⅞
French Franc:	6⅛-5⅞	6¹⁄₁₆-6¹⁄₁₆	6¹¹⁄₁₆-6⁹⁄₁₆	6½-6⅜	6⅛-5⅞
Swiss Franc:	2⅞-2¹³⁄₁₆	2¹⁵⁄₁₆-2¹³⁄₁₆	2¹⁵⁄₁₆-2¹³⁄₁₆	2¹⁵⁄₁₆-2¹³⁄₁₆	2⅛-1⅞
Yen:	½-⅜	½-⅜	⁹⁄₁₆-⁷⁄₁₆	⁹⁄₁₆-⁷⁄₁₆	n/a

GOLD/PRECIOUS METALS (Baird & Co)

Bullion: Open $382.50-382.90 Close: $382.50-383.00 High: $383.00-383.50
Low: $382.00-382.50 AM: $382.50 PM: $383.05

Krugerrand: $383.50-385.50 (£242.00-244.00)

Platinum: $412.25 (£259.75) Silver: $5.34 (£3.375) Palladium: $134.75 (£84.90)

STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Mkt Rates for Oct 6	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Amsterdam	2.5210-2.5259	2.5210-2.5243	⅛-⅛pr	1⅛-1⅛pr
Brussels	46.32-46.49	46.32-46.42	12-9pr	31-26pr
Copenhagen	8.7450-8.7780	8.7450-8.7670	1½-1⅞ds	2⅞-1⅞ds
Dublin	0.9801-0.9831	0.9801-0.9826	11-7pr	25-19pr
Frankfurt	2.2503-2.2585	2.2503-2.2534	½-⅜pr	1½-1⅜pr
Lisbon	236.23-237.21	236.23-236.86	40-49ds	142-158ds
Madrid	195.42-195.73	195.42-195.71	42-52ds	137-155ds
Milan	2550.5-2557.9	2553.8-2557.9	7-9ds	24-27ds
Montreal	2.1072-2.1226	2.1072-2.1104	0.13-0.05pr	0.18-0.04pr
New York	1.5826-1.5854	1.5826-1.5836	0.14-0.11pr	0.33-0.28pr
Oslo	9.9230-9.9560	9.9410-9.9560	1½-1pr	3⅛-2⅞pr
Paris	7.8250-7.9160	7.9020-7.9160	⅛pr-par	⅛pr-⅛ds
Stockholm	11.009-11.108	11.084-11.108	1⅛-2⅛ds	5⅛-7⅛ds
Tokyo	158.19-159.40	159.12-159.40	1-⅞pr	2⅞-2⅛pr
Vienna	15.835-15.901	15.874-15.901	3⅞-3⅛pr	10⅞-9⅞pr
Zurich	1.8111-1.8163	1.8134-1.8163	⅞-⅞pr	2-1⅞pr

Source: Extel *Premium - pr. Discount - ds.*

DOLLAR RATES

Australia	1.3149-1.3157
Austria	9.97-9.98
Belgium (Com)	29.28-29.29
Canada	*1.3342-1.3347*
Denmark	5.5340-5.5370
France	4.9885-4.9905
Germany	1.4228-1.4233
Hong Kong	7.7317-7.7327
Ireland	1.6107-1.6127
Italy	*1614.00-1615.50*
Japan	100.25-100.35
Malaysia	2.5348-2.5358
Netherlands	1.5952-1.5957
Norway	6.2935-6.2965
Portugal	149.75-149.85
Singapore	*1.4265-1.4275*
Spain	123.65-123.75
Sweden	7.0064-7.0139
Switzerland	1.1430-1.1440

OTHER STERLING

Argentina peso*	1.5832-1.5858
Australia dollar	2.0815-2.0842
Bahrain dinar	0.591-0.603
Brazil real*	1.5165-1.5207
China yuan	12.00 Buy
Cyprus pound	0.71-0.72
Finland markka	6.7325-6.8485
Greece drachma	367.0-374.0
Hong Kong dollar	12.2393-12.2486
India rupee	53.16-54.12
Indonesia rupiah	3558.0-3626.6
Kuwait dinar KD	0.4695-0.4795
Malaysia ringgit	4.0121-4.0149
New Zealand dollar	2.3920-2.3946
Pakistan rupee	49.84 Buy
Saudi Arabia riyal	5.705-5.829
Singapore dollar	2.2567-2.2597
S Africa rand (com)	5.765-5.858
U A E dirham	5.755-5.879

*Barclays Bank GTS * Lloyds Bank*

FT-SE VOLUMES

3i	1,000	Land Secs	381
ASDA Gp	3,400	Legal & Gn	2,300
Abbey Ntl	2,400	Lloyds Bk	1,500
Allied Dom	*1,800*	*Marks Spr*	*2,400*
Argyll Gp	4,100	Mid Elec	1,200
Arjo Wggns	829	NatWst Bk	4,700
AB Foods	62	Nat Power	1,400
BAA	1,800	NW Water	498
BAT Inds	2,300	P & O	1,200
BOC	375	Pearson	814
BP	3,600	PowerGen	1,200
BSkyB	3,600	Prudential	2,700
BTR	5,400	REXAM	1,600
BT	4,100	RMC	706
Bk of Scot	1,900	RTZ	1,800
Barclays	2,000	Rank Org	781
Bass	1,100	Reckitt Col	992
Blue Circle	447	Redland	1,400
Boots	949	Reed Intl	180
BAe	4,200	Rentokil	1,800
BA	2,400	Reuters	1,100
Brit Gas	12,000	Rolls Royce	4,200
Brit Steel	15,000	Royal Ins	3,600
Burmah Cstl	178	Ryl Bk Scot	1,700
Cable Wire	2,500	Sainsbury	2,600
Cadbury	2,700	Schroders	10
Carlton Cms	400	Scot & New	487
Cm Union	1,300	Scot Power	4,100
Cookson	1,900	Sears	4,100
Courtaulds	1,500	Svrn Trent	1,000
De La Rue	151	Shell Trans	3,300
Enterpr Oil	2,100	Siebe	2,000
Fisons	23,000	Smkl Bch	1,400
Forte	758	Smith Nph	1,900
GKN	658	Sthern Elec	1,900
GRE	982	Std Chartd	2,000
GUS	1,600	Sun Allnce	805
Gen Acc	1,700	TI Gp	188
Gen Elec	7,700	TSB	7,900
Glaxo Well	3,200	Tate & Lyle	739
Granada	748	Tesco	5,900
Grand Met	4,400	Thames W	543
Guinness	2,800	Thrn EMI	310
HSBC	3,500	Tomkins	860
Hanson	8,100	Unilever	1,100
ICI	2,700	Vodafone	2,500
Inchcape	2,600	Whitbread	921
Kingfisher	2,200	Wlms Hld	267
LASMO	636	Wolseley	1,200
Ladbroke	4,200	Zeneca	547

	Oct 6 midday	Oct 5 close
AMP Inc	38⅜	37⅞
AMR Corp	71¼	70⅞
AT & T	63⅝	63⅝
Abbott Labs	44	43⅞
Advanced Micro	27⅜	27⅝
Aetna Life	71⅝	72
Ahmanson (HF)	26	25⅞
Air Prod & Chem	51½	51¼
Albertson's	32⅞	32⅞
Alcan Alumnm	31½	31⅛
Alco Standard	80⅞	80⅞
Allied Signal	44⅞	44⅛
Alum Co of Am	53⅛	51⅝
Amax Gold Inc	6	5⅞
Amerada Hess	47⅝	47⅝
Amer Brands	42⅜	42⅜
Amer El Power	36⅝	36⅞
Amer Express	44	44⅛
Amer Genl Corp	36⅝	36⅞
Amer Home Pr	87⅝	87⅝
Amer Intl	85⅞	85⅞
Amer Stores	28⅞	29⅛
Ameritech	50⅞	50⅞
Amoco	64¼	64⅞
Anheuser-Busch	63⅝	63⅞
Apple Computer	36⅛	36⅛
Archer Daniels	15¼	15⅞
Armco	6⅞	6⅞
Armstrng Wrld	54⅝	54⅛
Asarco	30⅞	30⅞
Ashland Oil	32⅞	32⅞
Atl Richfield	106¼	106⅛
Auto Data Pro	69⅝	68⅝
Avery Dennison	41⅛	41⅛
Avon Products	71⅝	71⅝
Baker Hughes	20⅞	20⅞
Baltim Gas & El	26	26⅛
Banc One	37⅛	37⅞
BankAmerica	63	63
Bank of NY	47⅜	46⅞
Bankers Tr NY	70⅞	69⅞
Barnett Banks	56⅞	56
Bausch & Lomb	38⅞	38
Baxter Intl	41	40⅞
Becton Dickinsn	65⅞	62⅞
Bell Atlantic	60⅞	60⅞
Bell Industries	20⅞	20⅞
BellSouth	73⅝	73⅝
Black & Decker	33⅞	33⅛
Block (H&R)	38⅞	38⅞
Boeing	65	64⅞
Boise Cascade	39⅞	39
Bristol Myrs Sq	74½	75⅞
Browning Ferris	29⅞	29⅞
Brunswick	20⅞	20⅞
Burlington Nthn	72⅞	71⅞
CBS	80⅞	80
CNA Financial	110	109
CPC Intl	67⅞	67⅞
CSX	80⅞	79⅞
Campbell Soup	51⅛	50⅞
Can Pacific	16⅛	16⅞
Cptl Cities ABC	117⅞	117⅞
Carolina Pwr	32⅞	33⅞
Caterpillar	54⅞	55⅞
Central & SW	25⅞	25⅞
Champion Intl	50⅞	52⅞
Chase Manhat	63⅞	62⅞
Chemical Bk	62⅞	62⅞
Chevron Corp	49⅞	49⅞
Chrysler	52⅞	50⅞
Chubb Corp	93⅞	94
Cigna Corp	105⅞	106⅞
Citicorp	73	72⅞
Clorox	69⅞	70
Coastal Corp	32⅞	32⅞
Coca Cola	71	70⅞
Colgate-Palmolive	67⅞	67⅞
Columbia Gas	38⅞	38⅞
Compaq Comp	48	48⅞
Comp Ass Int	39⅞	39
Conagra	38⅞	40⅞
Conrail	67⅞	67⅞
Cons Edison	30⅞	30⅞
Cons Nat Gas	40⅞	40⅞
Cooper Inds	34⅞	34⅞
Corestates	38⅞	38⅞
Corning Inc	28⅞	28⅞
Crown Cork	38	37⅞
Dana Corp	27⅞	28⅞
Dayton Hudson	73⅞	74⅞
Deere	84⅞	84⅞
Delta Air Lines	70⅞	69⅞
Deluxe Corp	32⅞	32⅞
Detroit Edison	32⅞	32⅞
Digital Equip	45	44⅞
Dillard Dept St	33	32⅞
Disney (Walt)	57⅞	57⅞
Dominion Res	38⅞	38⅞
Donnelley (RR)	39⅞	39⅞
Dover Corp	37⅞	37⅞
Dow Chemical	73⅞	74
Dow Jones	37	37⅞
Dresser	23⅞	23⅞
Duke Power	43⅞	43⅞
Dun & Bradstreet	58⅞	58
Du Pont	67⅞	67⅞
Eastman Kodak	57⅞	58⅞
Eaton Corp	51⅞	51
Emerson Elec	70⅞	70⅞
Engelhard Corp	25⅞	25⅞
Enron Corp	33⅞	33⅞
Entergy	26⅞	26⅞
Ethyl Corp	11⅛	11
Exxon	73⅞	73⅛
FMC Corp	71⅞	72⅞
FPL Group	40⅞	40⅞
Federal Express	81⅛	82⅞
Fed Nat Mtge	106⅞	106⅞
First Chicago	69⅞	69⅞
First Interstate	105⅞	103⅞
First Union Rlty	7⅞	7⅞
Fleet Finl Grp	38⅞	38⅞
Fluor Corp	57⅞	57
Ford Motor	30⅞	30
GTE Corp	39⅞	39⅞
Gannett	53⅞	54
Gap Inc Del	38⅞	38⅞
Gen Dynamics	52⅞	52⅞
Gen Electric	62⅞	63
Gen Mills	55⅞	55⅞
Gen Motors	45⅞	44⅞
Gen Reinsurance	149⅞	149⅞
Gen Signal	29⅞	29⅞
Genuine Parts	40	39⅞
Georgia Pac	84⅞	86
Gillette	49⅞	49
Glaxo Wellc ADR	24⅞	24⅞
Goodrich (BF)	62⅞	62⅞
Goodyear Tire	38⅞	38⅞
Grace (W&R)	66⅞	66⅞
Grt Atl Pac Tea	23⅞	22⅞
Great Wstn Fin	23⅞	23⅞
Halliburton	41⅞	41
Harcourt General	41⅞	41⅞
Heinz (HJ)	47⅞	47⅞
Hercules	58⅞	59⅞
Hershey Foods	65	65⅞
Hewlett Packard	82⅞	82⅞
Hilton Hotels	64⅞	64⅞
Home Depot	39⅞	39⅞
Homestake Mng	17	16⅞
Honeywell	42⅞	41⅞
Household Intl	63⅞	63⅞
Houston Inds	45⅞	45⅞
Humana	19⅞	19⅞
ITT Corp	121⅞	120⅞
Illinois Tool	57⅞	56⅞
Illinova	27⅞	27⅞
INCO	32⅞	32⅞
Ingersoll Rand	36⅞	36
Inland Steel	22	21⅞
Intel Corp	62⅞	60⅞
IBM	94⅞	94⅞
Intl Flav & Fr	48	48⅞
Intl Paper	38⅞	39⅞
James River Va	31⅞	31⅞
Jhnsn & Jhnsn	76⅞	75⅞
Kellogg	75	74⅞
Kerr-McGee	55⅞	56
Kimberly-Clark	67	67⅞
Kmart	12⅞	12⅞
Knight-Ridder	57	57⅞
Lilly (Eli)	92⅞	92⅞
Limited Inc	20	19⅞
Lincoln Nat	46⅞	46⅞
Litton	41⅞	41⅞
Liz Claiborne	26	26
Lockheed Martin	65⅞	66
Louisiana Pac	23⅞	23⅞
MCI Comm	25⅞	25⅞
Marriott Int	38⅞	37⅞
Marsh & McLnn	85⅞	86⅞
Masco Corp	27⅞	27⅞
May Dept St	43⅞	43⅞
Maytag Corp	17⅞	17⅞
McDonalds	39⅞	39⅞
McDonnell D	79⅞	78⅞
McGraw Hill	80⅞	79⅞
Mead Corp	56⅞	56
Medtronic	54⅞	55⅞
Mellon Bk	47⅞	46⅞
Melville Corp	34⅞	34⅞
Merck Inc	59⅞	59⅞
Merrill Lynch	62⅞	62⅞
Microsoft	87⅞	87⅞
Minnesota Mine	57⅞	57⅞
Mobil Corp	102⅞	102⅞
Monsanto	98⅞	98
Morgan (JP)	78⅞	77⅞
Motorola Inc	71⅞	71⅞
Natl Semi	28⅞	29⅞
Natl Service Ind	29⅞	29⅞
Navistar Int	11⅞	11⅞
NBD Bancorp	39⅞	39⅞
NY Times A	28⅞	27⅞
Newmont Mng	40⅞	39⅞
Niag Mohawk	11⅞	12⅞
Nike B	112⅞	111
NL Industries	16⅞	16⅞
Noram Energy	7⅞	7⅞
Nordstrom	41⅞	41⅞
Norfolk Sthn	73⅞	73⅞
Nthn State Pwr	45⅞	46
Nwest Corp	33⅞	33⅞
Nynex Corp	49⅞	49⅞
Occidental Pet	21⅞	21⅞
Ohio Edison	22⅞	23
Oracle	38⅞	38⅞
Oryx Energy Co	12⅞	12⅞
Owens Corning	44⅝	44⅝
PPG Industries	44⅝	45
PNC Bank	29	29
PP&L Res	22⅞	23⅛
Paccar Inc	46⅛	46⅞
Pacificorp	19⅛	19⅛
Pac Enterprises	25⅞	25⅞
Pac Gas & Elect	28⅞	28⅞
Pac Telesis	30⅞	30⅞
Pall Corp	23⅛	23⅞
Panhandle East	27⅛	27⅛
Peco Energy	28⅞	28⅞
Penney (JC)	47⅝	47⅝
Pennzoil	44⅛	44⅞
Pepsico	52⅛	52⅞
Pfizer	55⅞	55⅞
Phelps Dodge	63⅝	63
Philip Morris	84⅞	84⅞
Phillips Pet	31⅛	31⅛
Pitney Bowes	41⅛	41⅛
Polaroid	39⅛	39
PriceCostco	17⅛	17⅞
Procter & Gmbl	79⅛	79
Providian	41⅛	42
Pub Serv E & G	29⅛	29⅛
Quaker Oats	32⅞	32⅞
Ralston Purina	59	59⅞
Raychem Corp	44⅛	44⅞
Raytheon	85	84⅞
Reebok Intl	34⅛	33⅞
Reynolds Metals	54⅛	55
Roadway Srvcs	46⅛	46⅞
Rockwell Intl	45⅛	45⅞
Rohm & Haas	58⅛	58⅞
Royal Dutch	126⅛	125
Rubbermaid	27⅛	27⅞
SBC Comms	54⅛	54⅞
Safeco Corp	65	65⅞
St Paul's Cos	57⅛	57⅞
Salomon Inc	39⅛	39
Sara Lee Corp	30	29⅞
Seecorp	17⅛	17⅞
Schering Plough	53⅛	53⅞
Schlumberger	66⅛	66⅞
Scott Paper	48⅛	49
Seagram	36⅛	36⅞
Sears Roebuck	35⅛	36⅞
Shell Trans	72⅛	72⅞
Sherwin Wlms	35⅛	35⅞
Skyline Corp	18	18
Snap-On-Tools	38	38⅞
Southern Co	23⅛	23⅞
Sprint Corp	34⅛	34⅞
Stanley Works	44⅛	43⅞
Sun Company	25⅛	25⅞
Sun Microsys	57⅛	58
Suntrust	66⅛	66⅞
Supervalu	29⅛	29⅞
Sysco Corp	27⅛	27⅞
TRW Inc	73⅛	72
TCC Inds	2⅛	2⅞
Tandem Comp	12⅛	12⅞
Tandy Corp	58⅛	58⅞
Teledyne	25⅛	25
Temple Inland	49⅛	50⅞
Tenneco	45⅛	44⅞
Texaco	66⅛	66⅞
Texas Inst	76⅛	74⅞
Texas Utilities	34⅛	35⅞
Textron	68⅛	67⅞
Time Warner	39⅛	38⅞
Times-Mirror A	29⅛	29⅞
Timken	41⅛	41⅞
Torchmark	42⅛	42⅞
Toys R Us	26⅛	26⅞
Transamerica	70⅛	70⅞
Travelers	52	51⅞
Tribune	63⅛	62⅞
Tyco Labs	60⅛	59⅞
UST Inc	30⅛	30⅞
UAL	172	168⅞
US Inds	19⅛	19⅞
USX Marathon	19	19⅞
Unicom	31⅛	31⅞
Unilever NV	130⅛	131⅞
Union Camp	55⅛	56⅞
Union Carbide	39	38⅞
Union Pacific	64⅛	65
Unisys Corp	8⅛	7⅞
USAir Group	12⅛	12⅞
USF&G Corp	18⅛	18⅞
US Life	29	29⅞
US West	47⅛	47⅞
United Tech	85⅛	85⅞
Unocal Corp	28⅛	28⅞
Upjohn	44⅛	44⅞
VF Corp	53⅛	51⅞
WMX Tech	27⅛	27⅞
Wal-Mart Stores	23⅛	24⅞
Warner-Lambert	93⅛	93⅞
Wells Fargo	200	197⅞
Westinghouse El	15⅛	15⅞
Weyerhaeuser	45⅛	46⅞
Whirlpool	56⅛	56⅞
Whitman	20⅛	20⅞
Winn Dixie	60⅛	60
Woolworth	15⅛	15⅞
Wrigley (Wm) Jr	50⅛	50⅞
Xerox	130⅛	129
Yellow Corp	13⅛	13⅞

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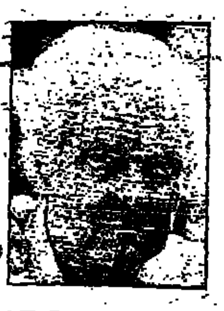

PENSION WATCH 34-35
How to choose the right investment

WEEKEND MONEY

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Sniffing out the best deal at market

Haven or hell? **Caroline Merrell** and **Morag Preston** look at tax shelters

Taxman sinks his teeth into offshore cash

The Inland Revenue is warning thousands of tax-payers with billions of pounds held in offshore bank and building society accounts that they face heavy fines if they do not declare income earned on such deposits.

These accounts are held through the subsidiaries of these banks and societies in places such as Guernsey, the Isle of Man and Jersey. An account can be opened in the UK through high street branches of banks or building societies. Over the last two years, offshore deposits in building societies alone have almost doubled, to about £7 billion.

Interest on these accounts is paid gross, which is advantageous *for non-taxpayers, those who are not normally resident in the UK, or UK residents who are working abroad and are not paying income tax in this country.*

There are no real advantages for a UK resident taxpayer — *you must declare the interest earned on the money held in these accounts and pay tax on it.* An onshore account is taxed automatically.

The temptation to secrete thousands of pounds in an offshore account is considerable.

Falling interest rates have hit savers hard, and once the money reaches its offshore destination, it is practically *untraceable.*

A former Inland Revenue inspector, who is now an accountant, said: "The Revenue has *virtually no chance of finding out information on accounts held offshore.*" He said that the Revenue had no jurisdiction in offshore centres.

The Revenue, however, said: "If people are doing it, we can find out about it. In total we retrieve about £4.7 billion as a result of compliance activity, although we cannot break down how much of that is from offshore accounts."

Those who chose not to declare offshore income could double their tax bill if they were caught out, the Revenue added. "In practice, the money is usually retrieved through negotiation."

Offshore accounts are advertised *through* branches and the media. *The banks and building societies claim that they will try to alert customers to their tax position, although this is in the form of leaflets aimed at those who are eligible* for the tax break.

John Duffy, managing director of Halifax International, said: "The bulk of our business comes through the post and coupon advertising. We stopped advertising our offshore accounts in the mass market media about two years ago, because we were alarmed about the response we were getting."

David Garland, deputy managing director of Coutts & Co in Jersey, said: "The *offshore industry is really geared towards the expat market. Those people who are working in low tax or no tax countries have access to a tax shelter for their savings.*

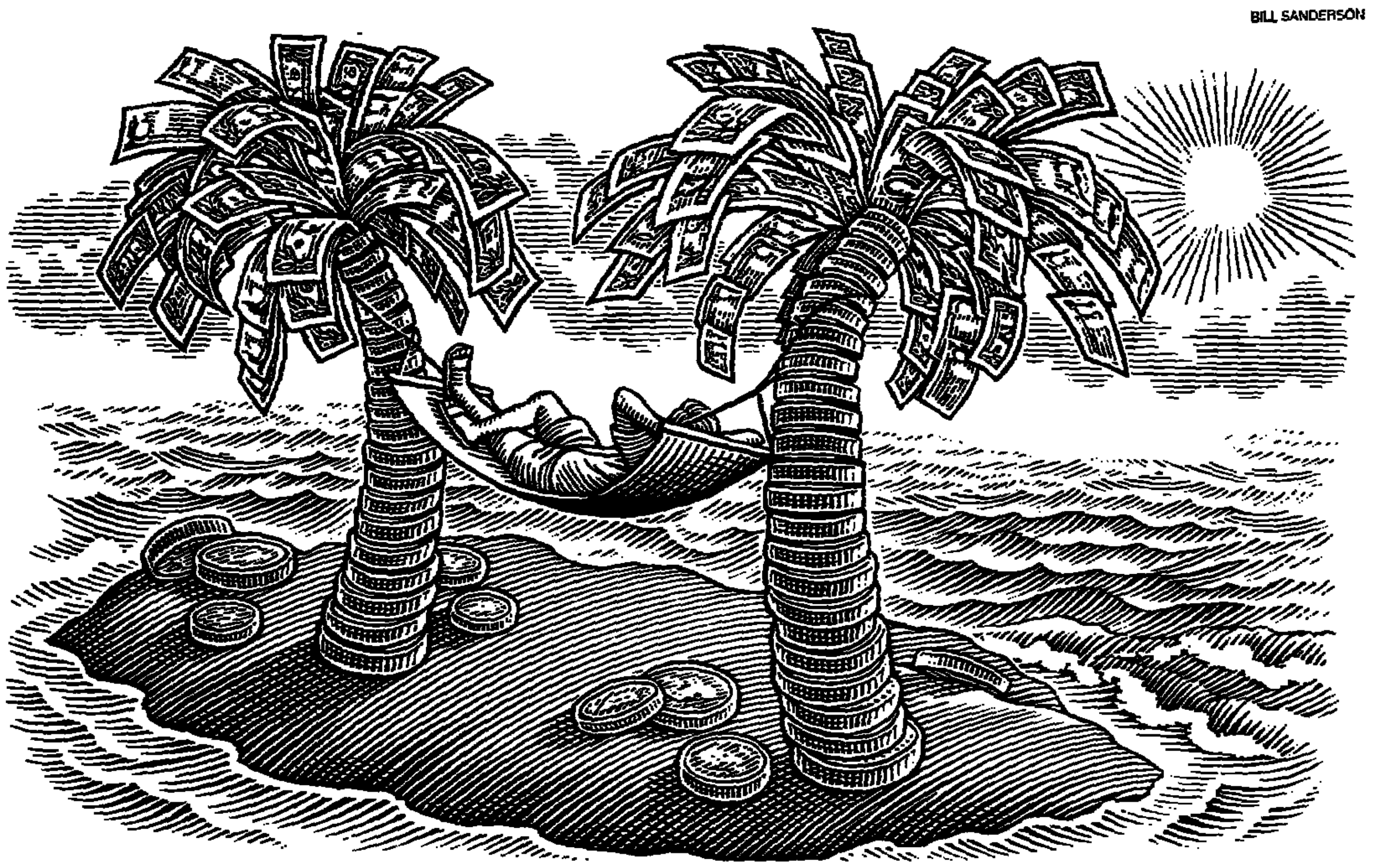
"The Inland Revenue have no rights of access to client records held in Jersey. But we always stress that clients have an obligation to declare income for tax purposes. We have a code of conduct which has rules regarding the aiding and abetting of tax evasion."

The interest offered on offshore accounts varies considerably. For example, £5,000 invested in the Portman Building Society in the Channel Isles would earn interest of 6.2 per cent.

Other high-paying accounts include the Halifax International's Gold 90 account, *which pays up to 7.1 per cent interest on deposits of more than £100,000. Halifax has offshore centres on the Isle of Man and Jersey.*

The National & Provincial's offshore subsidiary *offers an* account entitled Offshore Reserve Account, which *pays an* interest of 6.3 per cent on deposits of £10,000 or more.

BILL SANDERSON



You can idle away in your island paradise and watch your *money* grow — but the British *taxman may* well catch up with you

Roll up, roll up to an island in the sun

Offshore deposit accounts may be of limited value for the average UK resident taxpayer, but other offshore investments may present some advantages (Caroline Merrell writes).

Many of the UK's biggest fund management companies have offshore subsidiaries selling funds in the UK and other parts of the world. The income rolls up free of tax and while *the investor will eventually have to pay tax on the investment when the offshore holdings are sold, there may be a saving at that point if he is in a lower tax band than when the investment was made. For example, he may have retired and become a lower-rate* tax payer, *or no longer have to pay tax.*

These funds may also be advantageous for those who have moved to a country with a less onerous tax regime when they encash their funds. They will escape UK income tax. Fidelity, Guinness Flight, GT, Scottish Amicable and Eagle Star are among those with offshore operations. Rothschild Assets Management has one of the biggest roll-up funds. Its Five Arrows *International* Reserve fund has $1.1 *billion under management.*

Nick Smith, *Guinness Flight director, warns: "Offshore services are not* about legally avoiding *tax. They put* people in a tax advantageous position. There are advantages for a substantial number of people, but nobody should make decisions on tax grounds alone." He points out that the entire gain on any investment made on an offshore roll-up fund will be liable to be taxed as income when the bond comes to be encashed, meaning the investor will not benefit from the annual capital gains tax exemption limit of £6,000.

Experts predict that offshore funds *and accounts will become more attractive to* UK *residents as the next* election *nears. The possibility of a* Labour government, and with it an *increase in taxation, means that many more people may be looking to defer payment of income tax for as long as possible, or may be looking to move to another country to escape tax when they retire.* For example, only 15 per cent of deposit-based customers at Bradford & Bingley in the Isle of Man are UK residents, but Paul Hutchinson, general manager, said: "We will be more mindful of the UK market in the future. There are indications of a move to look offshore because of the political changes which may occur in the UK."

Weekend Money
is edited by
Anne Ashworth

Sailing away from the Revenue

BERMUDA
UNITED STATES

Bermuda is a favourite

Perhaps an attachment to fish and chips and traditional warm beer explains why wealthy UK *citizens rarely move far afield in search of a tax paradise.*

UK citizens *who move to a* tax haven, like actor Michael Caine who went to the US, can enjoy a variety of cut-price tax rates, but they have to weigh up the cost of uprooting themselves to the Bahamas or the Cayman Islands.

Robert Field, partner in the tax department at solicitors Lawrence Graham, says: "Only one client of mine has ever left Britain to avoid paying tax. He went to Tenerife, but returned after six months when *he realised that there was more to life than sitting in a beach* hut snack bar."

But British rock and sports stars, including Rod Stewart who moved to the US and Ian Botham, who moved to Alderney, do occasionally opt to *adopt expatriate status, even if they only spend the minimum time in their new tax haven to qualify as a tax exile.*

Mike Price, director of international tax services at Pannell Kerr Forster, *the accountants, prefers Bermuda as* a tax haven because he likes the sun. He says: "It is well-established and the communication system is as advanced as anywhere, but there are fewer business opportunities than somewhere like Cyprus."

Bermuda, Dublin, the Channel Islands, and the Isle of Man, are principal havens used by UK citizens who want to continue *living in Britain.*

Most of the major banks and building societies run offshore operations, including the Halifax in Jersey and the Newcastle in Gibraltar. UK investment managers abroad include Fidelity in Luxembourg and Bermuda, *Singer & Friedlander in Dublin, and Guiness Flight in Guernsey.*

Maurice Parry-Wingfield, a tax partner at Touche Ross, says: "I would plump for the Channel Islands *or the Isle of* A lot of people *who run the* funds come from the UK, so you feel comfortable dealing with them and they are very efficient. Costs are not as high as, say, Switzerland, and you are not prevented from dealing in foreign currencies, deposits and securities."

Nick Smith, a director of Guiness Flight, says: "Offshore services are not about legally avoiding tax. They put people in a tax advantageous *position.*"

How far to trust your trustees

INVESTMENT STRATEGY

ANTHONY HARRIS

You worry about your portfolio; otherwise you would not be reading this. But if you also have a job, you probably know little or nothing about the biggest slice of your personal wealth — *the part locked up* in your pension fund.

The trustees who run it do not have to tell you much about what they are doing, though the best are reasonably informative. A clear report is a good sign in itself; but it hardly ever answers all the questions which you ought to be asking.

It is an odd situation, left over from the days of full employment, when a company pension was designed primarily as a reward for loyalty. You would, it is true, have had to contribute, but your employer matched this, and the fund was further swollen by benefits given up by early leavers, who got only their own money back. So your own pension cost you remarkably little. The trustee arrangements are the same as those made for minors and lunatics — insulting, if you thought about it. But you didn't. The employer was a generous gift horse and you didn't examine his teeth.

Employers are less inclined to be *generous now.* Parliament has partly *protected the rights of early leavers, so schmes cost more to run*; and anyway, *employees need little encouragement to cling on to their jobs.* That is why *some employers are offering defined contribution rather* than defined benefit *schemes.* You don't know exactly what you will get, still less what it will be worth. But the employer knows the cost: no nasty suprises about pension fund deficits when the stock market falls. That benefit is worth the sacrifice of the directors' gravy train — final salary boosts designed simply to inflate their pensions. Some, indeed, don't offer company pensions at all.

But if you are in a scheme, why worry? If you have been in a job for more than a few years, it will be a final salary scheme, and investment performance is a worry for your employer, who has guaranteed your benefits, but not for you. Not quite true: the very best schemes often deliver a good deal more than the contract — even full indexation, which only former civil servants can claim as a right.

But true enough, all the same; and in any case, there is only a little a beneficiary can do about investment performance. Ask for comparative performance measures, and see if the trustees blush; if they do, suggest good outside managers. And that's about it. But much better a disappointing pension than none at all: security matters even more than performance. And here, since your own contributions can be at risk, you can make legitimate demands.

The biggest danger to your retired rights is that your employer, the guarantor *of your pension,* may go bust. Security demands that such a disaster will not also wipe out some of the fund's capital.

That is why all the best funds — and PDFM reports, encouragingly, that this now means 63 per cent of them, up from only 33 per cent in 1991 — forbid the pension fund from holding the employer's own shares. Insist on a no self-investment rule.

Criminality at these levels is rarer than bankruptcy; but looking after the actual securities is still a basic. Yet only 17 per cent of the PDFM funds hold their securities with global custodians — wholly independent and legally bonded. Not good enough; and I would also like to see a rule against stock lending. Some managers lend stock to earn a little extra — and so assist speculators who want to sell their assets short, which can be very costly. True, 53 per cent of funds share this view but the other 47 per cent need nagging.

And while you are nagging, find out if your trustees are up to speed on hedging currency and market risk. You may not get all you want, but the questions will keep them awake.

"I checked out the usual high street names. I couldn't see 8.0% tax free anywhere."

Compare Fidelity to some high street names

Company	Product/ Account	Notice	% Gross	After basic rate tax	After higher rate tax
Fidelity	MoneyBuilder Income	No penalties	8.0**	8.0	8.0
Investors should be aware that, unlike cash held in a bank or building society account, the capital value of investments in MoneyBuilder Income PEP is not guaranteed.					
Abbey National	Investment	90 days	3.85	2.89	2.31
Halifax	Solid Gold	90 days	4.3	3.23	2.58
N&P	Private Reserve	90 days	4.65	3.49	2.79
Lloyds	30 day Savings	30 days	4.05	3.03	2.43
Barclays	Select	90 days	5.2	3.9	3.12

Source: Moneyfacts [illegible] **Source: Fidelity estimate [illegible]

While banks and building societies offer security for your capital, their interest rates are currently low. And that's bad news for savers.

8.0%* pa tax-free running yield
7.7%* pa tax-free redemption yield

Look at the chart below. You'll see that Fidelity's MoneyBuilder Income PEP offers an attractive alternative:

- 8.0% tax-free income
- Gilts and corporate bond investments (which means less risk than traditional equity based PEPs)
- No entry or exit charges
- No time penalties

Fidelity can offer such excellent value for money because we're the world's largest independent investment management organisation with more than £220 billion invested worldwide.*

Get your money moving – into Fidelity MoneyBuilder Income PEP. Call us now for details.

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Fidelity Direct™
Take a wiser line with your money.

*Estimated gross income calculated on [illegible]. *The redemption yield allows for any expected capital gains/losses if the bonds are held until maturity. The MoneyBuilder Income PEP will be available for lump sum investments only with a minimum of [illegible]. The value of investments and the income from them may go down as well as up, and you may not get back the amount invested. Tax levels and reliefs may be subject to future statutory change and the value of tax savings and eligibility to invest in a PEP will depend upon individual circumstances. If you call Fidelity and you receive advice, this will only relate to the products offered by Fidelity Investment Services Limited or a member of its marketing group. The Fidelity PEP is offered and managed by Fidelity Investments Limited regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority. Figures include those of FMR Corp., a US Company and an affiliate.

For those who would like independent financial advice, Fidelity products are also available through Independent Financial Advisers.

Karen Zagor steers borrowers through a lexicon of lenders

Where to go when the cash runs low

WEEKEND
MONEY
GUIDE

There comes a time in almost everyone's life when borrowing money becomes a necessity, whether to pay for a wedding, funeral, holiday or furniture. The best method of borrowing will depend largely on the amount you need and how quickly you can realistically pay off the debt.

If you've already pushed your overdraft to its limit and there is no room for manoeuvre on the credit card, then you will need to think creatively. There are a number of options:

■ **Pawnbrokers** have the advantages of speed and convenience. The industry is regulated by the Consumer Credit Act, 1974. Pawnshops can lend up to £15,000 for six *months, and the lending period* can be extended at the discretion of the pawnbroker. The average loan is for less than £100.

If the pledge is not redeemed within six months, the pawnbroker can sell the goods to cover the loan and interest. If the loan is for less than £25, the property goes to the pawnbroker. For loans of between £25 and £50, the pawnbroker must send the borrower a result of sale notice. *The pawnbroker is allowed to* recoup the loan, interest and reasonable costs for the sale. Any excess goes to the pawner. When the amount lent exceeds £50, the pawnbroker must give 14 days notice before selling the goods. Borrowers can ask for proof that the pawnbroker used reasonable care to get the true market value for the goods.

At City Pledge in Islington, London, for example, you can borrow up to a third of the value of any goods you pawn for a six-month loan. The amount of interest depends on the value of the goods. Monthly rates range from 5 to 10 per *cent, with less interest charged* for the more expensive items.

These rates, which translate to APRs in the region of 80 to 200 per cent, are significantly higher than standard bank loans. Customers also pay for a legal contract, which costs about £5. Pawnshops make sense only for short-term borrowing. Make sure your choice of shop is a member of the National Pawnbrokers Association.

From October 16, a booklet entitled *Using a pawnbroker . . . just another way of borrowing money* will be available free from the Office of Fair Trading at OFT Publications, PO Box 2, Central Way, Feltham, Middlesex, TW14 OTG, or by calling 0181 398-3405.

■ **Endowment and whole of life assurance policies** can be borrowed against by going *directly to the insurer*. Prudential estimates that it issues 125 such loans a week. The loans are only available on Prudential's regular premium *conventional policies*. Endowment policyholders can borrow up to 90 per cent of the surrender value. Whole of Life policyholders can borrow up to 80 per cent of the surrender value.

The minimum loan is for £250. Prudential says that it usually takes two or three days to process a loan application. There are no administration charges.

The minimum term is six months, after which the loan can be paid off at any time with no penalty charges for early repayment. The current APR is 11 per cent, slightly higher than *the lowest authorised* overdrafts on the market.

■ **Authorised overdrafts** are still the best bet for current account holders who need extra cash quickly. Most banks and building societies can process an overdraft application within minutes.

Consumers who expect to dip into overdraft regularly or remain consistently overdrawn for some time should consider *switching to a bank or building* society with low charges.

The change could mean a saving of hundreds of pounds a year.

Abbey National, for example, is at the low end of the market, with an authorised overdraft APR of 9.9 per cent and no extra charges. In contrast, NatWest's authorised overdraft has an APR of 17.6 per cent and there are extra fees *of £9 for every month the* account is overdrawn. Some also charge overdraft arrangement fees.

■ **Unauthorised overdrafts** should be avoided at all costs. Abbey's reasonable authorised rates soar to an APR of 29.5 per cent, with monthly charges of £12 for those overdrawn without approval. There are also transaction charges of £5 for payments guaranteed with a cheque card. Other lenders' *rates* are similar.

■ **Gold cards** can be a cheap way of short-term borrowing for big purchases. Most credit cards have the advantage of offering an interest-free period between the time of purchase and the first statement. With an MBNA gold card, for example, the interest-free period is up to 25 days. You need to earn more than £20,000 to qualify for an *MBNA* card with an APR of 18.90 per cent on purchases and no annual fee. Cash advances on credit cards tend to carry higher interest rates, and interest usually starts accruing from *the first day. With the MBNA* Gold Visa card, however, there is a reduced APR of 13.9 per cent on cash advances for the first six months.

Pawnshops offer speed and convenience but the APR on their loans can range from 80 to 200 per cent

■ **Unsecured loans** are an option for longer-term borrowing. Payments are fixed. Barclays issues new loans at a rate of *one every minute*. These loans can be cleared within an hour, and most loans are *issued within a day. Most* unsecured loans start at £500, with a limit of £10,000-£15,000, depending on the lender. Rates vary enormously. Abbey's APR is 18.9 per cent for loans up to £2,000, falling to 16.9 per cent for amounts up to £5,000 and easing to 15.9 per cent for loans of £10,000-£15,000. Early settle*ment attracts a redemption* penalty of two months' interest.

■ ***Secured loans** are for* homeowners who want to borrow against the capital in their homes. These can take three weeks to arrange but have lower rates. Barclays Homeowner loans for owner-occupied properties have an APR of 11.2 per cent on loans of £5,000-£9,000 for endowment mort*gage holders. Rates are 11.3* per cent for repayment mortgage holders. The amount of bor*rowing is limited to the equity* you have in your home. Older homeowners can borrow against their homes to buy an annuity if they are short of income. These Home Income Plans have tax advantages, but ill-considered schemes have caused heartache. All schemes should be researched thor*oughly. An Age Concern guide* is available for £4.95 from Age Concern England, Astral *House, 1268 London Road,* London SW16 4ER.

Beat Labour to the tax punch

In spite of reassuring words at its conference this week, Labour remains inextricably linked with the threat of higher taxation. Tony Blair and Gordon Brown have pledged they would take steps to limit tax avoidance and increase revenues from capital gains. This means those with substantial unrealised capital gains should be thinking now how best to use the relief and exemptions available to mitigate or defer a capital gains tax bill.

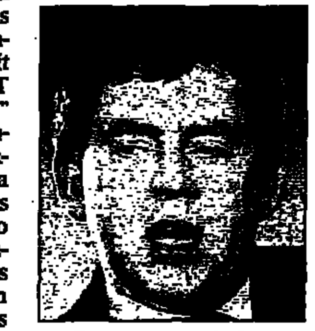
You should first ask yourself some simple questions: *Is the* gain subject to tax? For example, there is no capital *gains tax on sale of your* principal residence. Gains from antiques and pictures *sold for under £6,000 are* also free of CGT, unless sold as part of a set. Have you made the best use of your allowances? If your gain is within the current exemption limit, then you need do nothing, unless you believe that the gain is likely to increase substantially over the next few years. Each spouse is entitled to an annual CGT exemption of £6,000. If you own land worth £150,000 on which you have made a chargeable gain of £12,000 and you have not made any chargeable gains in that year, you can avoid tax on the sale by transferring the land into joint names. But there is one drawback. In order to save £2,400 in tax (£6,000 x 40 per cent), you have to give your spouse £75,000.

Blair: taking the lead

If you have used up your allowances, you may be able to take advantage of the reinvestment relief tax-saving opportunities. The highly complex reinvestment relief rules work like this. If, within 12 *months before or three* years after a sale (including a gift) on which a charge*able gain is realised*, an amount equivalent to the gain is invested in a "qualifying investment", then the gain is not chargeable to tax. Qualifying investments are defined in Section 164 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992. But, essentially, they include: ordinary shares in unquoted companies in certain types of trade, run with a view to making a profit. It must also control all of its subsidiaries which must, themselves, carry on qualifying trades. A non-UK company can qualify. But banking, insurance, leasing, distribution or land dealing companies are among those excluded.

The tax is deferred until the investment is sold. The chargeable gain (or loss) is calculated on the proceeds, having deducted the chargeable gain on the previous sale from the acquisition cost. The fortunate *may find that their circumstances fit neatly* within the legislation. Others will encounter considerable obstacles on their way to *finding the perfect qualifying investment.* All opportunities must be checked to ensure they comply with the regulations. *This may not be easy.*

Take the case, for example, of Anthony, a businessman and family man who is looking at a £400,000 profit on shares. He would like to stash this gain in a qualifying investment. Anthony considers his options. He owns a Gloucestershire farm, worth £180,000 and a farmhouse worth £300,000. His sister, Fiona, is managing director of a group of food and catering companies which he is confident will grow. His friend Mark owns a property development company in Italy in which Anthony would like to invest, perhaps becoming a director. Anthony also thinks of retiring to Italy and investing in his son Tom's company. Tom buys cottages and runs them as self-catering holiday homes. Anthony's first idea is to form a company into which he will put funds to buy the farm. The drawback is by splitting ownership of the farm (to be sold to a farming company) from the farmhouse (to be retained by him) it is unlikely his home will continue to *qualify for 100 per cent* inheritance tax relief on his death. If the farming com*pany bought his home, it* would not qualify for CGT "main or only residence" exemption, and the farming company would probably not qualify as a qualifying investment, as the company would no longer be substantially involved in trading. Fiona is keen for him to invest in her food company. This is clearly a qualifying trade but there would appear to be two obstacles: First, Fiona's fellow directors would prefer Anthony to have non-voting preference shares, to stop interference. These shares do not qualify for relief. Secondly, the group of companies has a 47 per cent holding in a packaging company. To qualify, all subsidiaries must be at least 50 per cent owned. Reinvestment relief is available for investments in non-UK companies, including property development. This means Anthony could invest in his friend's Italian company — after making sure it is in property development, not property investment — as long as it does not have any subsidiaries. He must also make sure the company is in property development, not property investment. Anthony's idea of retiring to *Italy* is also a problem.


Brown: tax pledge

If he becomes a non-UK *resident, the Revenue* will demand payment of the deferred capital gains tax, *unless Anthony* becomes non-UK resident for reasons of an employment which involves no UK duties, lasts for less than three years and he does not sell the shares in the company while abroad. He could put his money into his son's holiday home company. But the Revenue could argue that holiday homes constituted a leasing business.

Caroline Garnham
The author is a private capital partner at Simmons & Simmons, the solicitors.

Freehold campaign wins new lease of life

Leaseholders fighting to buy the freehold of blocks that form part of the South Kensington Estate of Henry Smith's Charity have won a critical breathing space. Their case was brought to light in August, when *The Times* investigated fears that property owners trying to buy freeholds were receiving poor advice from solicitors and meeting strong resistance from evasive landlords.

Reports in Weekend Money *elicited a flood of letters from* around the country indicating that the problem was widespread. In the case of the South Kensington Estate, a tribunal hearing that had been set for the end of this month to settle the terms of a new management scheme has been delayed until the new year.

Residents' associations had pressed for delay on the grounds that they had not yet seen revised *management* proposals, drawn up after original proposals met with a *storm of protest.*

A majority of tenants in 100 of the estate's 150 blocks of *flats* and converted houses want to exercise their right of first refusal to a share of the freehold of the estate, valued at £80 million. But Smith's Charity refuses to complete the sale until the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal has approved the terms of the management scheme.

The charity and its agents say such a scheme is necessary to preserve the integrity of the estate. Some residents say the proposed scheme would not give them control over the costs of repair and maintenance.

Smith's Charity and the Wellcome Trust, which has bought two thirds of the £283 million estate, have given warning that the tribunal delay will result in a rise in the price that tenants pay for their share of the freehold. Smith's Charity has built monthly indexation of the price into its freehold offer, arguing that delays shorten the length of time a lease has to run, making the lease more valuable to a freeholder.

In August, Smith's Charity announced that it was planning to sell the freehold to Wellcome.

Under the Landlord and *Tenant Act 1987, tenants have* to be served notices giving them the right of first refusal *on the freehold if the existing* landlord wants to sell to a third party.

However, Smith's Charity angered tenants by not serving notices immediately offering first refusal, under Section 5 of the Act, whcih would have given tenants two months to respond.

Instead, Wellcome Trust served notices under Section 18 of the Act, which requires 50 per cent of tenants to indicate within 28 days that they want to be offered first refusal.

Sara McConnell

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COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

Those taking a financial decision are always exhorted to "read the small print", a piece of advice that will almost always leave you confused but can also you save you from making expensive mistakes: The eyestrain is worth the effort.

The truly sceptical read the small print first, to confirm their suspicions that a scheme is usually far less than it seems in larger type. But, as pension policyholders in their thousands can attest, sometimes even the most careful scrutiny of the terms and conditions does not help to avoid the traps.

This is partly because the true implication of pension terms can be beyond even the most sophisticated and informed understanding, and partly because it is impossible to spot the potential pitfalls unless you know where to look.

On page 35, we investigate the cases of Margaret Howitt and Brian Wright, two readers who believed, like most people, that taking out a pension more or less secures a worry-free retirement. But they have been confounded by a mixture of brochure wording and quirks in legislation.

Their stories are a cautionary tale for the millions who have personal pensions but are ill acquainted with the exclusion clauses in their policies. This applies particularly to those who left the State Earnings Related Pension Plan (Serps) for personal pensions which were vigorously sold, but often less assiduously explained.

Bereavement and sudden illness meant that our two readers discovered earlier than most that choosing an annuity, the fixed income investment from which the pension will be paid, is as fraught with complication as choosing a pension.

Most pension plans now offer an open-market option, allowing you to pick the best annuity deal. You are not obliged to stay with the insurance company which invested your pension contributions, but can seek quotes from the competition. But when Mr Wright wanted to retire early through ill-health, he found his way to an advantageous annuity blocked by a clause in his Abbey Life pension policy. If he bought an annuity elsewhere, he would forfeit £20,000 of his £80,000 fund. If he took Abbey's annuity offer, there would be no widow's pension and no tax-free lump sum. These painful penalties were the fatal flaw in Abbey's otherwise generous maximum allocation offer, where an extra 20 per cent was added to every contribution.

Left widowed at 43, Mrs Howitt also sought out the best annuity deal for the £8,000 pension lump sum left by her husband who had opted out of Serps, a crucial detail as it emerged. She found that some insurance companies did not accept such small amounts. Others were not authorised to give annuity quotes for Serps pensions. Nothing in the wording of the pension led her to expect such an outcome. Depressingly, a similar response probably also awaits thousands of former Serps members on modest earnings hoping to make the best of their small pensions. Sniffs of condescension were not part of the package bought by those who left the state scheme, supposedly for something superior. Since millions were not told of the dangers of not adding their own contributions to the Government National Insurance rebate sweetener, one suspects that other shortcomings are unlikely to have been made clear.

The saga of Mr Wright and Mrs Howitt should encourage anyone who is now arranging a personal pension, or already has one, to closely study every document. If various details are unclear (and there will certainly be some), they should then prepare a "what if" agenda with which to pester the insurance company.

Top question should be: What if I am forced to retire before the retirement date I chose when taking out the pension? If penalties are payable, ask how much.

Mutual attractions in the fight for independence

Incorporation fans are being met by those equally determined to stay mutual, says

Anne Ashworth

CLIFFORD HARPER

Sweeteners to make society members stay loyal

The Yorkshire this week became the latest building society to unveil a package of benefits designed to persuade doubting customers of the attractions of mutuality, an age-old structure, now threatened by takeovers and widespread scepticism.

There savers and borrowers, the members in "mutuality-speak", who are aware that they are the society's owners, have, of late, seen little tangible proof of this fact.

Next year, the Yorkshire society will be returning £20 million of its profits to its members, who will enjoy lower mortgage rates and better investment rates. Made against the background of a fiercely competitive mortgage market, the Yorkshire's move is intended to ensure the loyalty of customers, particularly borrowers.

Another aim is to counterbalance the attractions of the large payouts now being offered to societies which are the subject of takeovers. The Yorkshire, the tenth largest society, has always made clear its commitment to mutuality, despite countless rumours in past months that it was about to succumb to a bid.

The Bradford & Bingley Building Society, which is also wedded to independence, said yesterday that it would announce its promised £50 million benefit scheme early next year. Although this package will be larger in size, its value per member will be roughly equivalent to the Yorkshire reward scheme. The Bradford & Bingley has 1.3 million members, against 782,000 at the Yorkshire.

John Wriglesworth, a general manager at the Bradford & Bingley, the fifth largest in the league, conceded that interest-rate incentives could not compete with the generous handouts on offer in recent building society bids, such as the Lloyds takeover of the Cheltenham & Gloucester and the Abbey National's bid for the National & Provincial. The 10 million members of the Halifax will also be pocketing at least £500 in free shares when the society renounces its mutual status to become a quoted bank.

Mr Wriglesworth said: "Our bonus scheme will not be intended as a defence, though it may have some of the same attributes. But we will demonstrate that the benefits of mutuality last for a lifetime, whereas those on offer in a bid, or a in conversion to a quoted company, are one-off, never to be repeated. Building societies are accumulating capital. It is only right that some should go back to members." The Bradford package would, he said, closely resemble Yorkshire's, "but with extra bells and whistles".

In this first phase of its plan, the Yorkshire will next month cut its mortgage rate from 7.99 per cent to 7.85 per cent for new and old borrowers. The move, which will account for at least half of the £20 million to be returned to savers will be worth 2,000 over the lifetime of a £60,000 mortgage.

The society is also to introduce a minimum rate on all savings accounts of at least 2.75 per cent. This goes against the recent trend in the industry which has been to pay as little as possible on small balances.

For the future, Yorkshire customers can also expect that when mortgage rates are increased, savings rates will also be raised, without delay. The society's chief executive has stated that "time lags on interest-rate changes should be things of the past for any truly mutual society."

Less generous loyalty packages have already been announced by the Newcastle and the Northern Rock. Newcastle borrowers who have been with the society for five years will from January get a 0.14 per cent discount on their loans, a perk worth £88 a year on a £40,000 mortgage.

The Britannia, the eighth largest society but the first to moot the possibility of bonuses or divideds to keep customers sweet and bidders at bay, has yet to disclose the details of its scheme.

However, it seems likely that the scheme will be constructed along the lines of the Yorkshire package, which is now seen as something of a model. The scheme will be likely to reward loyalty, above all. John Heaps, the Britannia's chief executive, has recently spoken out sternly on the subject of those who open accounts for short-term gain.

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Price and prejudice over Pibs

In the 19th century, gilts were a *favourite middle class investment.* Elizabeth Bennet, heroine of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice,* stood to receive "£1,000 in the 4 per cents" on her mother's death. *That tradition has not made gilts better understood. Follow our guide to gilts and Pibs, a favourite investment of the 1990s.*

Investors who are prepared to accept more risk in return for a higher yield may be attracted by permanent interest bearing shares, or Pibs. These were introduced during the recession to allow *building societies to raise extra* capital to bolster their reserves against losses on residential and commercial loans.

Like gilts, most Pibs promise to pay a fixed rate of interest twice a year. Interest is paid net of income tax. So Skipton Building Society's Pibs pay fixed interest of 12.825 per cent in two instalments of £48.28 *net a year on every* £1,000 holding.

The price of Pibs rise and fall like other types of share bought and sold on the London Stock Exchange, and there is no guarantee that holders will get their original capital back. If the Government raises the base rate, the fixed interest rate of Pibs will become comparatively less valuable, and so their price will fall.

But unlike gilts, Pibs are irredeemable. Building societies will only repay investors if *they are wound up. Pibs* holders rank behind all other types of investors in the queue for money and do not qualify for compensation under the terms of the Building Society Investor Protection Fund.

A society facing financial difficulties may also decide to miss an interest payment, which it is not obliged to make *up later on.*

In reality, it is extremely unlikely that a building society will be allowed to fall into such a state of financial disrepair that it is unable to meet its liabilities. In the past, the Building Societies Commission has engineered a takeover by a stronger society whenever one of its members has shown signs of distress. The responsibility for any Pibs falls on the newly merged society.

BBC TV

Elizabeth Bennet's £1,000 in the 4 per cents, referred to in *Pride and Prejudice* was not a giant fortune

The greater element of risk posed by Pibs means that, to attract buyers, building societies have to offer a higher rate of interest than gilts issued at the same time. The smaller building societies have to offer even higher rates than larger, *stronger* societies. But the potential loss of capital is sufficient to deter some financial advisers from recommending Pibs to their clients.

Martin Mullany, director of *Brooks Macdonald Gayer,* the independent financial adviser, said: "There's an extra level of risk and not enough extra reward. If interest rates go up, the price of both gilts and Pibs will fall. But if you hold a gilt until redemption you will get *its value back. Pibs do not offer* that guarantee." If a building society converts to a public *limited company,* any Pibs that it has issued become another type of fixed interest *security, known as a subordinated note.*

It will still continue to pay the same amount of interest, and holders benefit from moving up one place in the queue for money if the company is wound up.

Pibs holders will also benefit from a share in the cash enticement handed out to voting members. Investors who had bought Cheltenham & Gloucester Pibs worth £50,000 *or more two years* before the society announced its intention to convert received a bonus of £500 plus 13.5 per cent of however much they had invested in Pibs (up to a maximum holding of £100,000).

JILL INSLEY

PIB SHARES

PERMANENT interest-bearing shares (Pibs) are a type of IOU issued by building societies. They pay a fixed amount of interest twice a year which *is paid net of basic-rate income* tax.

Any capital gains are currently tax free, but from April next year gains on holdings of more than £200,000 will be taxable.

Michael Dyson, director of bonds for BZW, the broker, says that investors should look carefully at the yield of a Pibs before buying. He says: "If the yield is high, it indicates that the market thinks that Pibs is more risky."

The yield is the interest payable on a Pibs divided by its current price.

Whereas one of the Halifax *Pibs is yielding* 9.75 per cent, the Pibs issued by the much smaller Leeds & Holbeck Building Society is yielding 10.18 per cent, showing that the market has greater confidence in the financial strength of the Halifax.

The *price and yields of all* Pibs issued are listed in Weekend Money every Saturday.

Some societies have tried to stress the difference in risk between Pibs and ordinary deposit accounts by setting a very high minimum investment level of more than £250,000.

☐ Hoare Govett has produced a free factsheet on Pibs. To request a copy please telephone 0171-374 1872.

GILT-EDGED SECURITIES

☐ Government gilt-edged securities "gilts" are fixed-interest stocks issued by the Bank of England to fund government borrowing, when tax *revenues are insufficient.*

☐ The rate of interest on a gilt is fixed at the time of issue and paid, in most cases, twice a year. A maturity or redemption date, either a few years' hence or some time in the next century, is also set at the time of issue. Investors' capital will be returned to them on the redemption date. With *double-dated stocks,* the Government must repay the stocks by the last of the dates given. Both the payment of the interest, known as the coupon, and the capital are guaranteed.

■ Gilts cannot be cashed in *before maturity but* they can be sold through the stock market, using the services of a broker. Gilts can be bought and sold through the National Savings Stock Register (01253 697333).

■ Gilts have a variety of *names, including Treasury,* Exchequer and Funding but they have little significance. The figures that accompany the name are more important. For example, if you buy £1,000 worth of 14 per cent Treasury Stock 1998-2001, you will receive interest at the rate of 14 per cent (£140 a year) until the Government decides to repay the stock, at any time from 1998 onwards.

■ Index-linked stocks are for investors who want protection against inflation. Both the interest and the capital repayment at maturity are adjusted in line with movements in the Retail Prices Index (RPI).

■ The price of gilts, both the index-linked and the standard variety, are not fixed but rather fluctuate in line with general expectations about interest rates. When interest rates appear to be rising to double-digit levels, a 9 per cent coupon starts to look less attractive, depressing the price of the stock. But when rates are believed to be about to fall, 9 per cent suddenly no longer seems so mean, giving a fillip to the price. Gilts prices appear daily in *The Times* under the heading British Funds.

■ *The price you pay* determines the yield, the total return you receive from the stock. Confusingly gilts come with both an interest yield and a redemption yield.

The interest yield is the interest rate based on the purchase price of the stock, as distinct from the coupon which is the interest rate paid on the nominal amount of the stock.

The interest yield varies with the changes in prices. When prices rise, the yield falls and vice versa. The yield is calculated by dividing the coupon by the price and multiplying by 100. For example, if you pay £127.91p for £100 nominal of 12 per cent Exchequer 2013-17, the interest yield is 9.38 per cent.

The redemption yield takes into account interest paid and the capital gain or loss on holding the stock until the maturity date. Assuming the 12 per cent Exchequer is repaid in 2103, the redemption *yield would be 9.01* per cent, reflecting the loss in capital: Although you have paid £127.91, you will only get £100 back.

ANNE ASHWORTH

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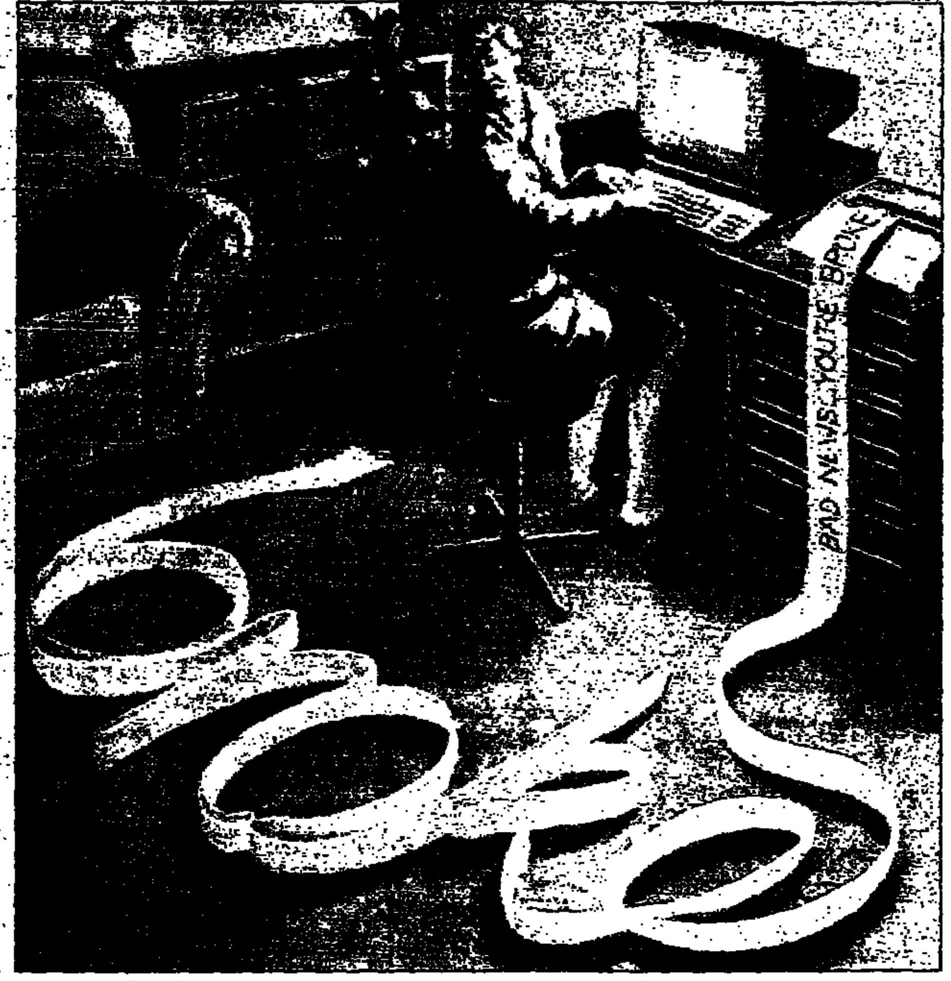
Balancing your budget on-screen

Microsoft's new system aims to popularise home accounting, for the diligent, says Morag Preston


ANGUS MEWSE

One in seven households in the UK has a computer, with sales growing at twice the rate of the PC market as a whole, but computer users are still reluctant to track their expenditure and plan their family budget on screen, as long as they have to spend hours inputting all the figures themselves.

Only 7 per cent of UK home computer users balance their bank accounts on screen, according to Microsoft, which introduced Money, its personal finance software, in 1992, and now has a 12 per cent share of the market. Money 4, to be launched next month, is the latest version in the series, and has been designed for people who know relatively little about computers or personal finance.

Steven McGill, consumer product manager at Microsoft, said: "The biggest issue at the moment is that no one is using the software because it is too complicated. But with the new version, we have made it more welcoming."

Combined with Windows 95, Microsoft's much-hyped operating system, Money 4 guides users step-by-step, explaining on screen how to monitor finances, enabling them to evaluate loans and estimate interest levels without having to pick up the beginners' manual. Intuit's Quicken leads the market with an 84 per cent share; Sage and Money Box are the other big names, but sales in personal finance software are relatively small.

Users have to be very organised with their banking to enjoy the benefits; the packages do not offer financial advice and computers can only report on the information that users make the effort to key in. Marcus Austin, of PC Direct magazine, says: "If you already have a PC, it's a nice way to balance the books, but you still have to use a pen and paper in the supermarket. "The biggest problem is you have to be disciplined and make a note of exactly what you are spending. Personal digital assistants, like the Hewlett-Packard 200LX, are better because you can carry them around and balance your budget as you go," he says.

> No one is using the software — it's too complicated. We have made it more welcoming

What concerns accountants is the flexibility personal finance packages offer and the faith customers have in them. Ian McKenna, a marketing consultant and former independent financial adviser, points out that there is no control on the range of figures that users are able to key in, allowing them to create false or unrealistic financial predictions.

Mr McKenna says: "There's one thing worse than no advice, and that is bad advice. If complex rules are necessary for the protection of investors receiving professional advice, are they not even more important if consumers are effectively advising themselves?"

Britain lags behind the US, where taxes are self-assessed and a greater percentage of customers own a computer — from which they can download their current-account information and pay bills from home. Microsoft and Intuit in the UK are racing to secure a similar 24-hour online banking service, but the different banking infrastructure in Britain means it will be two or three years before customers can transfer money electronically.

Money 4.
Price: £39.99 (including VAT) or £12 if you order before October 31.
Supplier: Microsoft 0345 002000.
System Requirements: 486 with 8MB Ram, Windows 95.

With Money 4, bank account balances over the last year, or the value of an investment portfolio can be pulled up on-screen. It monitors credit card payments and can produce a range of expenditure charts, allowing you to see what you spend on eating out, or the telephone. Planning Wizards enable a user to compare mortgages and loans.

Money 4 can estimate interest, work out how much you will need to save for a pension, and set goals for savings. It recognises familiar words, and also reminds the user when to pay the bills.

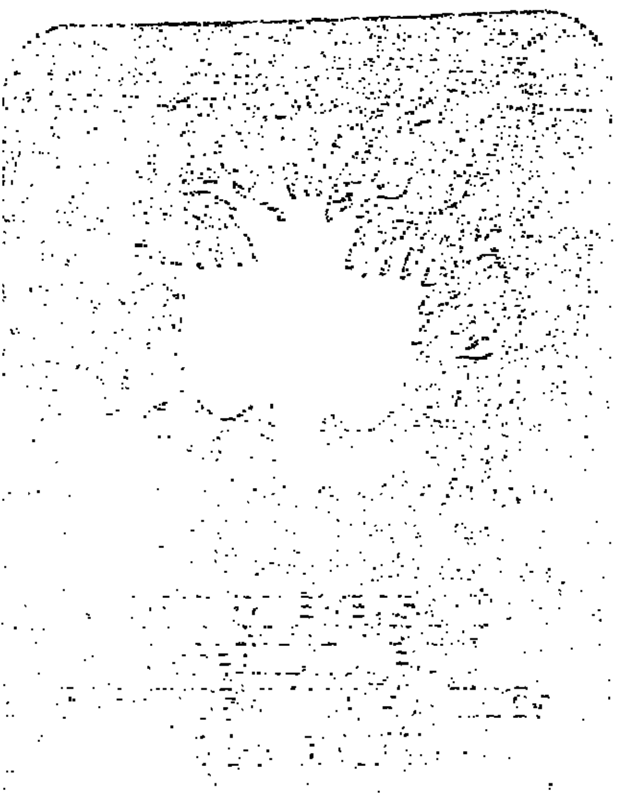
Quicken 4.
Price: £42.51 (excluding VAT).
Supplier: Intuit 0800 585058.
Systems Requirements: 386 with 4Mb Ram, 7Mb disk space, Windows 3.1.

The new user set-up, Wizard, takes you through the process of creating initial accounts, with Q-cards and a "guide-me" box. The Homebase control panel navigates beginners around the software.

The register display layout looks like a cashbook. Quickfill recognises familiar names, and the Snapshot facility displays areas of finances in chart or graph form. The Forecasting and Savings Goals function "What if" compares changes in circumstances when different loans or savings are chosen. Quicken handles stocks and shares and multicurrency accounts, but exchange rates need to be updated. It reminds you when to pay bills. Telephone support is free.

Moneywise.
Price: £49 (excluding VAT).
Supplier: Sage 0800 336633.
System Requirements: 386 with 2Mb Ram, 3Mb disk space, Windows 3.1.

Popular among club and society treasurers, the package has been designed by a company noted for its accounting software. Familiar images of cheques and bank statements are used to record income and expenditure. You can overview your stocks and shares, compare finances against a planned budget and draw up a room-by-room house contents inventory for insurance purposes. Moneywise also guides the user through a VAT return form. There is 30 days' free telephone support.



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National Savings wades in with knockout 5.75% rate

Affluence targeted: Angela Knight woos the middle-aged

National Savings (NS) launched their latest advertising campaign last week, with interest rates falling and increased pressure from the Government to meet borrowing targets.

Angela Knight, the Treasury Minister, endorsed the campaign, which is targeted at younger middle-aged affluent investors. Advertisements or Virtual Shops will feature in five national newspapers for a continual period of 52 weeks, providing both product information and an application form, to dispense with the need for investors to visit a post office.

As well as cutting out the middle man, the campaign seeks to differentiate NS from leading banks and building societies which offer an expanding range of services, highlighting its unique position as a Treasury department with the added security of government back-up.

For customers with smaller sums to invest, the NS Investment Account, which requires 28 days' notice, pays 5.75 per cent gross on balances of more than £500. Against this, the Abbey National and Halifax announced a 0.46 per cent and 0.48 per cent average decrease in interest rates respectively.

The Investment Account at Abbey National, which requires 90 day's notice, pays 3.85 per cent gross on balances between £500-£10,000. Its Instant Saver account pays 3.05 per cent gross on balances between £500 and £2,500.

Halifax's Solid Gold, requiring 90 days' notice, pays 4.05 per cent gross rate on balances between £500-£5,000. Halifax's Liquid Gold, which provides instant access, pays 3.45 per cent gross on balances between £500 and £2,500.

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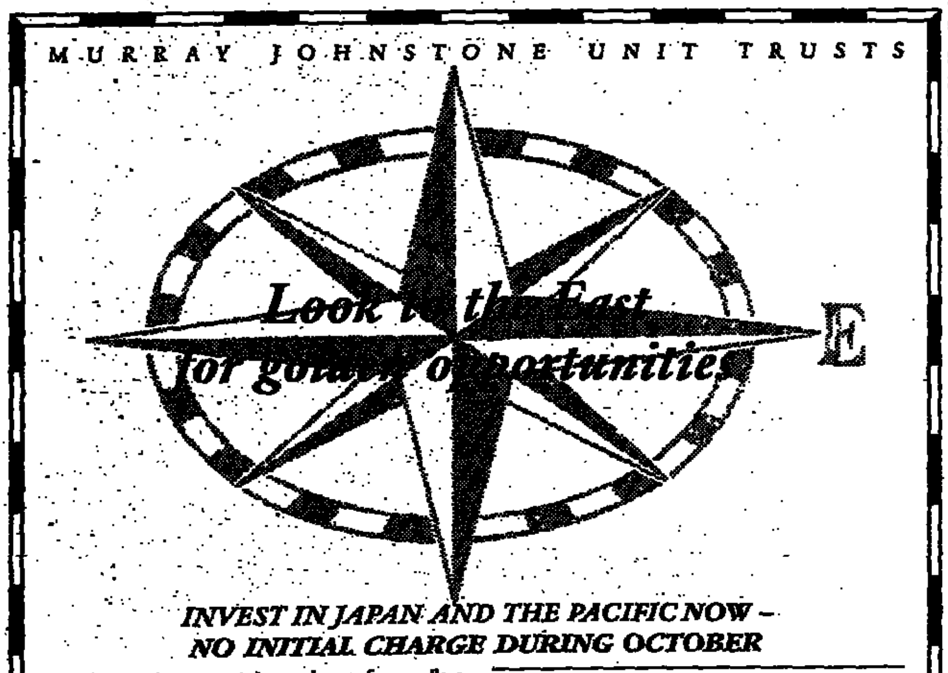

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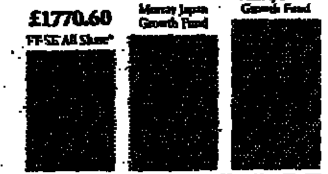

Both funds: min. investment £500, min. additional investments of £100. Regular savings from £30 per month can be made through Capital Builder. Source: Micropal – £1000 invested, from launch 11.8.92 to 1.9.95 – offer to bid, net income reinvested. *Source: Datastream.

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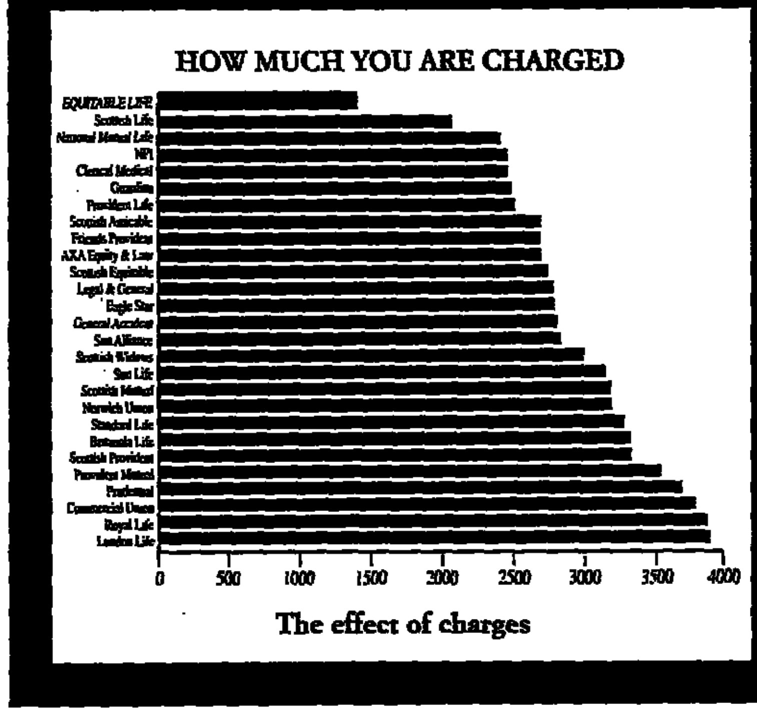
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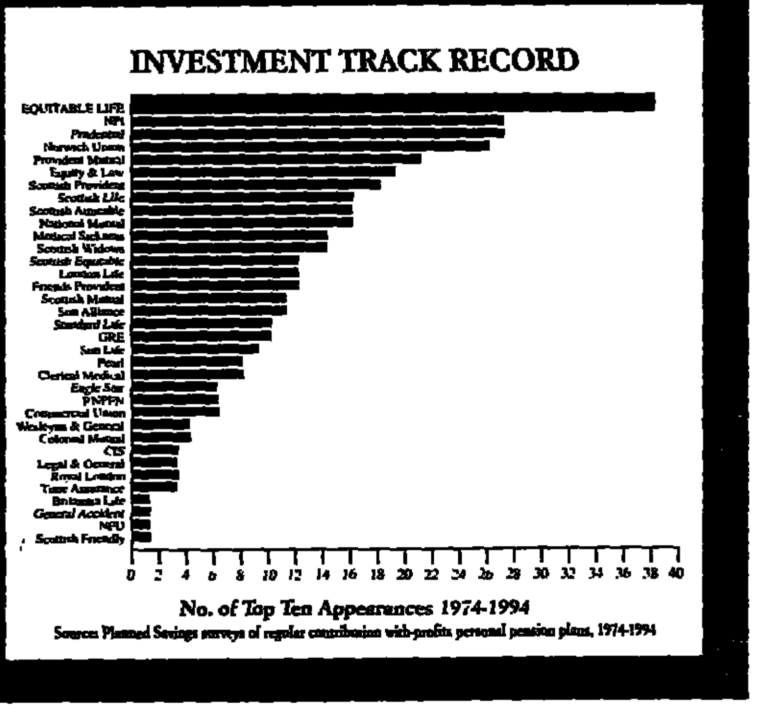
The effect of charges


INVESTMENT TRACK RECORD

No. of Top Ten Appearances 1974-1994
Source: Planned Savings surveys of regular contribution with-profits personal pension plans, 1974-1994

Choosing a personal pension plan is not an easy task. Superficially, many plans can look similar, so what factors should you consider when making your choice?

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PRICE

New rules came into force this year which require companies to disclose to potential buyers the cost of investments such as personal pension plans. Comparing the charges made by different companies can be quite revealing.

The chart above left compares the effect of the charges made by various companies to recoup such costs as commission, remuneration and administration for a £100 pm, 10 year regular contribution with-profits personal pension plan. Source: Money Marketing, 19 January 1995.

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Bowling along: by the time a personal pension pays out, one-third of the *contributions may have gone in charges*

When performance counts

Caroline Merrell

gives a breakdown of the true costs of a personal pension

PENSION PACKAGE

Estimated fund at retirement (in £,000s)

Insurer	Commission initial	level
Save & Prosper	183.3	178.6
Scottish Widows	179.6	181.8
Scottish *Equitable*	176.8	177.7
Norwich Union	176.2	174.8
London & Manchester	176.2	142.5
Albany Life	171.9	—
General Accident	170.6	—
National Mutual	*170.2*	*169.2*
Allied Dunbar	169.9	—
Britannia Life	169.9	167.9
Sun Life	169.0	172.8
Clerical Medical	168.4	168.4
MGM Assurance	167.2	171.6
Scottish Amicable	165.4	—
Eagle Star	165.4	—
Old Mutual	164.7	175.4
Legal & General	164.3	165.1
Scottish Amicable	163.9	165.0
Guardian	*163.9*	*166.3*
Standard Life	162.7	164.7
Friends Provident	162.6	162.4
Scottish Mutual	161.6	161.6
NPI	160.8	159.7
Scottish Life	157.3	158.5
Abbey Life	156.7	—
Provident Mutual	155.8	—
Scottish Provident	155.7	153.8
Prudential	155.7	154.8
Axa Equity & Law	155.7	147.6
Commercial Union	146.8	—
Royal Life	145.5	—

Table shows the effect of real charges on a £100 a month policy, taken out by by a 32-year-old man, with a retirement age of 65. Based on growth rate of 9 per cent. Inflation rate of 4 per cent

Source: Brooks Macdonald Gayer, using the PPI software system.

The charges levied by insurance companies on personal pensions were shrouded in mystery until this year. Since then, under new disclosure rules, any company selling life insurance and pensions has been obliged to inform prospective policyholders of the true cost of the pension.

Anyone who decides to buy a personal pension will be given a breakdown of costs before they sign up for a policy. They will also be told what impact the charges could have on the future proceeds from their fund. *The Times* examined the various charges levied by life insurance *companies on policies and what they pay* for. All the figures given are on a £100 a month policy taken out by a 32-year-old male, planning to retire at 65.

His contributions over the policy's term would be £40,000. If this is discounted to today's prices using a projected 4 per cent inflation, it would be *equivalent to £13,000.*

PENSION WATCH

TOTAL CHARGES

The total charges on an average policy of this type would be about £2,700 — nearly one-quarter of the investment — according to National Mutual Life — which specialises in pensions and offers one of the better-value contracts.

The charges levied by different companies vary dramatically from about 15 per cent of the total investment to one-*third. The more expensive companies* tend to be those which have to support big salesforces, such as the Prudential and Pearl. It is very important for anyone buying a personal pension not only to consider its costs. Choosing a personal pension on costs alone could be akin to someone with a family of four young children buying an MGF sports car, just because it is cheaper than a Volvo estate. With personal pensions, the performance of the product and its flexibility are as important, if not more, than its cost.

COMMISSION

Of the total £2,700 costs, just over £1,000 may go on paying the adviser's or salesman's commission. Many independent financial advisers are moving towards being charged on a fee basis, which means this money could be rebated to the policyholder. The adviser will then charge a fee based on the amount of advice given.

Initial or indemnity commission has been the focus of much of the criticism *levelled* at insurance companies. It has been attacked for reducing the overall returns received by policyholders. However, our table shows that the effect of *indemnity commission on the growth rate* of the pension is not all that different from the effect of level commission. When it comes to choosing your pension, your financial adviser may give you the choice of paying a fee, paying a one-off high initial commission or paying level commission, which is just initial com*mission paid over the* period of the policy. When you buy a policy, you will be told how much you have to pay in commission. Even if the person you are buying the policy from is paid via a salary, you will be told how much he gets of the total product cost.

OTHER EXPENSES

The rest pays the life company's expenses for managing the money and collecting *premiums and consists of:*

ADMINISTRATION

About £1,100 of the remaining amount goes on the policy's administration costs, including premium collection, tax problems and dealing with the Department of Social Security over National Insurance rebates, if the policy is contracted out of Serps. Acquisition costs about £350 for marketing and advertising. Fund management, though one of the most important aspects, costs only £250.

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⁽¹⁾Source: Micropal Main sectors Far East (excluding Japan and single country funds) buying price to selling price, net income reinvested on an original investment of £5,000 from 2.10.89 to 25.09.95. Schroder Pacific Growth Fund £14,189, 1st out of 24 funds.

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Sara McConnell on the fight to find a good annuity deal

The pension policy that penalises ill-health

A man forced to retire early through ill health is now fighting his pension provider for the return of £20,000 that it deducted from his pension fund when he tried to take the fund elsewhere to reap a better retirement income. Brian Wright had built up a pension fund of £80,000 with Abbey Life over more than 20 years. This year, he fell ill and decided to take early retirement at 63, two years before he had planned. He discovered that Abbey Life would impose draconian penalties on him for retiring early.

Mr Wright was offered two equally unpalatable choices. If he took his pension fund to another insurer that paid better annuity rates, Abbey would reduce the payout on his fund by £20,000 before paying it over.

If he stayed with Abbey Life and bought his annuity from that company, he could use the full fund but would only get a pension for himself, leaving his wife with nothing after he died. He would also get no tax-free lump sum.

Mr Wright believes he is being penalised for being ill and says Abbey's salesman never explained the penalties for early retirement when he bought the policy. Mr Wright took out an Abbey Life personal pension with a maximum allocation option in 1976. Under this option, Abbey added 20 per cent to each of his contributions, so that 120 per cent of each contribution was invested in his pension. All his contributions until 1983 were invested on a maximum allocation basis.

The idea of this was to build up pension profits quickly. Those who stay the course until retirement should find they have built up a good fund. But the policy will pay out nothing to those who die before retirement age. Nor do they have the right to take their fund elsewhere to get better annuity rates if they have to retire early. On early retirement, Abbey insists on medical reports and may restrict benefits.

Abbey says that it has to impose penalties to be able to afford to pay extra contributions. It adds: "There are no free lunches."

From 1983, Mr Wright stopped paying contributions on a maximum allocation basis, instead arranging for 100 per cent of his contribution to be invested. By the time he decided to take early retirement this year, £60,000 of the fund was invested on a 100 per cent allocation basis and £20,000 on a 120 per cent allocation basis.

DOUG MARKE

Brian and Hilda Wright say Abbey Life's advice was poor

He then discovered that because of his enforced retirement, this £20,000 could not be taken to another company and would be forfeit if he took the rest of his fund elsewhere. If he left his fund with Abbey, the company would impose penalties on the pension benefits it paid out.

Mr Wright has decided to move £60,000 of his pension fund to Winterthur and buy an annuity with it. But he will continue to fight Abbey to pay him the remaining £20,000.

He says: "At no time was I told that there would be penalties and I was definitely not aware that there would be no continuing pension for my wife."

Abbey maintains the penalties of the maximum investment option had been made clear in the brochure and that they were explained.

Equitable life for a small fund

When Margaret Howitt's husband died at the age of 49, he left £8,000 in a personal pension that he had set up to receive contributions diverted from the state earnings-related pension scheme (Serps).

Mrs Howitt was keen to improve on the annuity rate offered by Sun Alliance, her husband's pension company, by exercising her right to take the fund elsewhere to buy an annuity.

Only one of the insurers she tried, Equitable Life, would quote her an annuity rate and agree to accept her fund. The rest refused, either saying the fund was too small or citing technical and legal difficulties.

Many insurers will not accept funds of less than £10,000, claiming that the costs outweigh the benefits. Inland Revenue rules governing Serps are also complex and much depends on the wording of individual schemes.

- **Equitable Life** was the only one to respond positively to Mrs Howitt. It would pay an an annual income of £399.74 on a fund of £8,000, compared with Sun Alliance's offer of £390. It imposes no minimum fund size.
- **Standard Life** said that legally it could only offer Mrs Howitt a compulsory purchase annuity without a tax-free lump sum included in the package. But the company is not yet set up to accept Serps-funded pensions to buy such annuities.
- **Prudential** said that it imposes a £10,000 minimum limit for acceptance.

[illegible]

■ *What is an annuity?*
An annuity pays you and/or your dependants a guaranteed income for life. When you retire, you can take a proportion of your pension fund as a tax-free lump sum. But the remaining lump sum must normally be used to buy an annuity.

■ *Who sells annuities?*
The insurance company that sold your pension will offer you one. Some companies pay better annuity rates than others, so you can normally take your pension fund elsewhere and get a better rate.

■ *Is this the "open market" option?*
Yes. But insurers do not have to accept or allow this. They may refuse some types of scheme. Some insurers impose penalties or offer loyalty bonuses to dissuade you from moving. Once you have chosen your annuity, you cannot reverse your decision.

■ *What sorts of annuities are there?*
There are two main types: level and escalating. Level annuities will pay a fixed income for life and are the most popular. But the income will be eroded by inflation. Escalating annuites are indexed, either to the retail price index or by a set percentage. But you pay for indexation by taking a smaller income in the early years, when compared with level annuities. Some companies also offer unitised annuities, where the money is invested in equity linked funds. Your monthly income will fluctuate with market performance.

■ *Do I have to buy the annuity immediately I retire?*
Not necessarily. If you have a personal pension, you can delay buying an annuity until you are 75 and instead draw income direct from your pension if annuity rates are low when you retire. But this can be risky.

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Sources: 1: HSW Ltd, 25-3-91 to 8-9-95. 2: Financial Times Actuaries. 3: Hoare Govett Smaller Companies Index excluding Investment Trusts. Capital Gain, only. Albert E Sharp Smaller Companies Unit Trust is managed by Albert E Sharp Fund Managers Ltd on behalf of Albert E Sharp. Albert E Sharp Fund Managers Ltd regulated by IMRO. Albert E Sharp regulated by SFA. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Value of units and income from them can fall as well as rise.

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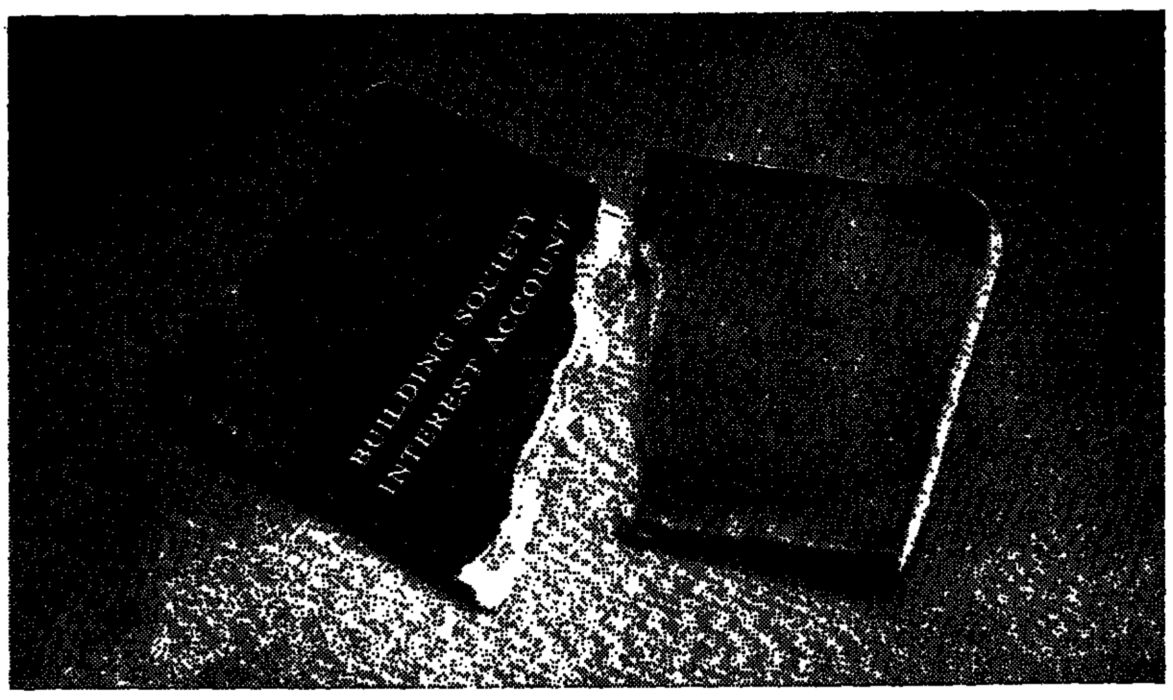

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Trusting investments for personal pensions

Today's workers are tomorrow's pensioners and more are turning to cheaper investment-trust personal pensions

Trust fund managers are taking on the life companies at their own game, says **Caroline Merrell**

More investment-trust companies are drawing up plans to launch personal pensions based on their funds. They believe they can offer low-cost high-performance plans to a public jaded by the mis-selling scandal which has bought sales of personal pensions from life insurance companies to a virtual standstill.

This week, Flemings became the latest fund manager to offer a personal pension based on its investment trust range. Other companies which already have this type of pension include Foreign & Colonial and Dunedin. Gartmore is considering launching a pension based on its portfolio, and Ivory & Sime is to offer one in the new year.

Investment-trust pensions seem to address many of the criticisms levelled at the more conventional personal pensions offered by life insurance companies — the charges are more transparent and lower than those on some of the traditional products on offer, the performance may be better and they do not always pay commission to an intermediary or a salesman.

For instance, the costs of taking out a Flemings investment-trust pension will reduce any annual growth rate by about 1 per cent, compared with the charges on a Standard Life pension which will reduce it by 2 per cent.

Daniel Godfrey, Flemings's marketing director, said: "The public are demanding low-cost investments, more likely to produce long-term returns, which will secure their standards of living in the future."

The difference in charges is accounted for largely by the commission paid to the financial adviser. Flemings's projections do not take into account any fee paid for advice which might be given to the policyholder. Mr Godfrey expects that the majority of people will buy Flemings pensions direct from the company.

The actual costs of taking out the Flemings investment trust pension are a £100 set-up charge — this reduces to £75 for contributions over £5,000 or £500 a month.

For contributions of over £10,000 a year or £1,000 per month, this drops to £50. There is also an annual maintenance charge of £50 and annual management charge of 0.5 per cent. Minimum investment in the plan is £100 a month, or a £1,000 lump sum.

Foreign & Colonial and Dunedin's plans carry similar charges but without reductions for bigger premiums.

Ivory & Sime's investment trust pension will be offered through a link-up with Swiss Life. The charges are 4 per cent of the annual contributions and a 0.75 per cent annual management charge. The estimated 4 per cent does include commission paid to an independent financial adviser.

Investment trust pensions are flexible — they allow the policyholder to take breaks from contributions without penalty: many of the original personal pensions did not but most now do.

According to figures from Micropal, the value of £1,000 invested 20 years ago in an average investment trust would now be worth £26,051. Invested in the limited range of individual pension funds which were then available, it would now be worth £13,225.

Anyone who opts to take out a Flemings pension will have the choice of investing in a combination of the 18 investment trusts offered by the company. They can have their contributions managed or manage their own money. The pension will automatically begin to switch in to a lower-risk cash fund just before retirement.

Northern lights up the way

The autumn rush of new trusts is well under way. As always, the key question for investors is whether the newcomers offer something different from what is already available and which has a track record. Performance is, however, going to be difficult to gauge on Northern Venture Trust, one of the new venture capital trusts that offer Pep-style tax breaks if the investment is held for five years. Northern Venture has already raised £11 million and is on public offer. Professional advice may be needed.

In a twist to trust launches, Martin Currie's Japan Investment Trust (0800 132647), which has a minimum investment of £500, offers investors the choice of receiving the usual one free warrant with five shares, or, a cash sum of at least 25p for each warrant — the equivalent of 5p a share. Still on the Japanese theme is Morgan Grenfell (0800 282465) with the launch of a Japan Growth unit trust (minimum investment is £1,000, or £25 a month), and Dublin-based Japan Capital Growth fund. In a change of direction, 3i Asset Management proposes to merge the NB Smaller Companies Trust with London Smaller Companies to create a 3i Smaller Quoted Companies Trust.

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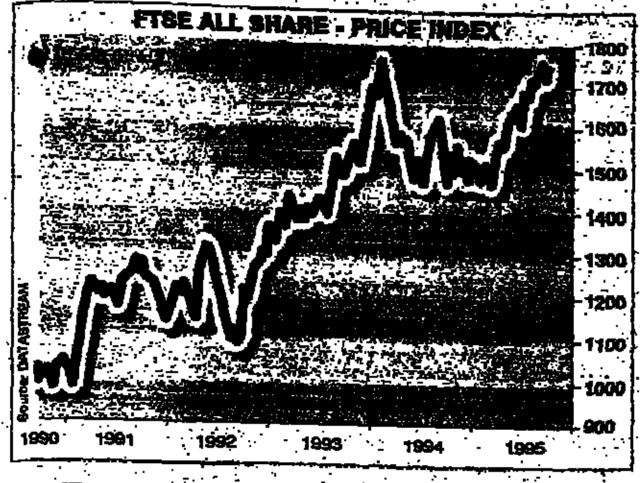

FTSE A All Share Index-Tracker Unit Trusts	03/04/95-02/10/95 % change	03/10/94-02/10/95 % change	01/10/92-02/10/95 % change	01/10/90-02/10/95 % change
FTSE A All Share	14.49	18.58	58.20	113.52
Virgin UK Index	14.00			
Gartmore UK Index	13.77	17.98	58.04	110.21
Norwich Union UK Index	8.38	11.91	48.06	94.98
Legal & General UK Index	7.39	12.48	46.43	-
Morgan Grenfell UK Eq Ind Trck	6.25	9.79	43.48	93.07
HSBC UK Index	5.59	10.30	48.92	92.59
Old Mutual UK	5.23	9.99	42.76	-

Source: Micropal. Growth is on £100 invested in FT-SE index-tracker after charges.

Trackers have a nose for tasty equity situations

Let a tracker invest for you

Jill Insley explains a short-cut to investment suitable for both the busy and the stock market novice

Unless you are a professional, deciding where to invest on the stock market can be bewildering.

The UK stock market alone lists 2,154 companies, and there are nearly 2,000 UK-registered unit and investment trust funds investing in markets around the world.

Index-tracker funds provide a simple solution for investors who have neither the time nor the expertise to analyse which shares or funds will perform best. An index-tracker fund aims to emulate the performance of an index — a measure of movement in value by a certain number of shares. The HSBC Footsie fund, for example, tracks the FT-SE 100 share index, which duplicates the performance of the biggest 100 companies listed in London.

Andrew Cheseldine, of Sedgwick Noble Lowndes, says tracker-funds are a good way for the inexperienced to dip their toes into stock markets. He said: "They tend to have low charges, because they are easy to manage, and give even the smallest investor exposure to a large number of shares." Amanda Davidson, a partner at Holden Meehan, recommends limiting the amount put in an index-tracker to 5-10 per cent of a portfolio. "They're not guaranteed to keep up with their index, and seem a little defeatist. You would hope to be able to pick a fund that will outperform the index," she said.

Tracking the performance of an index may seem a modest ambition, but many fund managers fail to meet it. Research commissioned by Virgin Direct, which launched into the index-tracking market in March this year, shows that the majority of UK general funds underperform the FT-SE A all-share index. Dominic Ryan, an MBA student at Warwick Business School, examined the performance of 60 funds after management fees had been deducted, since 1975. He compared their performance with the movements of the FT-SE A all-share index.

His research shows that half the funds outperformed the FT-SE A all-share index in 1977. But since then the number of funds outperforming the market has fallen steadily. In the last ten-year period, from June 1985 to June 1995, only two of the 60 funds outperformed the index.

Index-tracking is not restricted to the UK. Several fund managers offer tracker-funds following US, Japanese, European and Asian emerging-market indicies.

Mr Cheseldine says there are two key factors in choosing a fund — charges and performance. Most fund managers levy an initial charge of about 5 per cent, although Gartmore and Virgin make no initial charge. Annual management charges range from 0.2 per cent to 1 per cent. Virgin levies an exit charge of 0.5 per cent from investors who withdraw their money within five years.

Tracker-funds rarely manage to match identically the performance of their index because of dealing and trustee charges and variations in portfolio structure.

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

C&G escape from negative equity

Cheltenham & Gloucester has launched a negative equity mortgage, enabling homeowners to move house even if they have lost equity on their current property.

C&G's "escape route" mortgage allows homeowners with at least three years' good payment record — but little or no equity in their property — to borrow between 95 per cent and 125 per cent of the value of the new property, to a total loan of £200,000 and up to twice their annual income.

Available from Cheltenham & Gloucester and from Lloyds Bank branches selling C&G Mortgages. For information call (free) on 0800 272131.

Liverpool Victoria, specialising in life and endowment assurance, has recently published a financial guide for teenagers. *Looking after your finances — a guide for the under 20s* has been sent to more than 2,500 colleges, schools and libraries throughout the country. The free guide provides information on student loans, income tax, life insurance, renting your first home plus tips on how to avoid financial pitfalls. The guides can be obtained from Liverpool Victoria, tel. 0800 550 050.

Independent Insurance has introduced a new policy designed to provide people who work from home with a range of cover including buildings, contents, business interruption and business liability. Independent estimates that, by approaching each risk on an individual basis, savings of up to 20 per cent will be available to many homeworkers on their overall insurance needs. Call Independent Insurance on 01732 865211.

Natwest is enticing new customers to its BrokerLine telephone share-dealing service with the offer of two free deals until October 31, 1995. To qualify, investors must use the service twice with an individual order size of at least £2,500 (minimum commission £20 up to £4,000 and 0.4 per cent on the balance above). Call: 0800 515780.

Oswald Hickson Collier, the London solicitor, is providing a free 24-page booklet aimed at individuals who are coming to the UK to work, to invest, to set up or buy into a business. For a copy of *Immigration and Residence in the UK*, call 0171 583 5333.

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Scottish Widows Bank 0345 829829	Instant Acc	Postal	£250	5.60	Yly
Skipton BS 01756 700511	3 High Street	Inst	£2,000	5.80	Yly
Co-operative Bank 0345 252000	*Pathfinder*	*Inst*	£5,000	6.00	Mly
Scottish Widows Bank 0345 829829	Instant Acc	Postal	£50,000	6.40	Yly

TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Britannia BS 01538 399399		5 Year	£8,315	7.65	F/Yly
Robert Fleming / S&P 0800 282101		5 Year	£3,000	7.50	Yly
Barclays Bank 0800 400100		5 Year	£1,000	7.40	A/Yly
Tipton & Coseley BS 0121 5572551		5 Year	£1	7.35	Yly

OFFSHORE (GROSS)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Co-operative Bank 01481 710527	Pathfinder WW	Instant	£5,000	6.12	Mly
First Nat Guernsey 01481 710400	Instant Acc	Instant	£10,000	6.75	Yly
Newcastle Bank (Gibr) 00350 76168	Nova 90 Offshr	90 day	£25,000	6.85	Yly
All & Leic (IOM) Ltd 01624 663566	Invstment Bond	1 Yr Bnd	£10,000	7.00	Yly

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.98%G	12.40%	Nil C
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 282101	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.60%	£12
Royal Bank of Scotland 0800 161616	MasterCard	1.14%	14.50%	Nil C

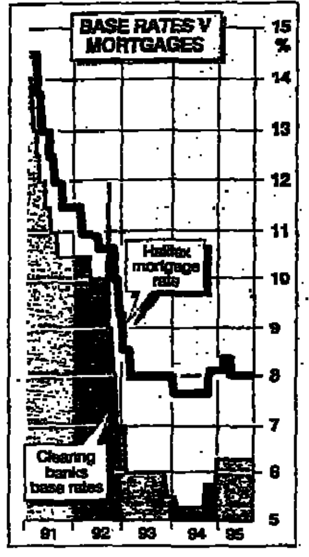
PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

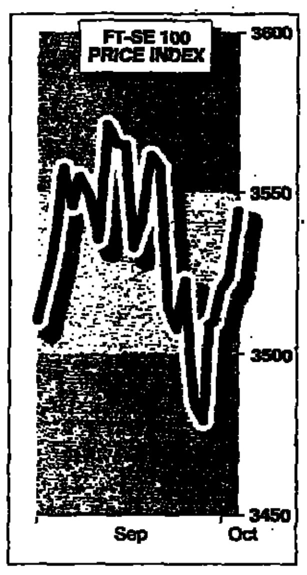
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payment on £3,000 for 3yrs with insurance	no insurance
Midland 0800 180180	15.40%	£116.54	£103.14
N&P BS 0800 808080	15.50%	£118.22	£103.29
Clydesdale Bank 0800 240024	16.20%	£113.94	£103.33

Nb. A - Feeder account required. In the interest paid columns, C = no interest free period D = annual fee rebated £1.5K+ charged per annum E = Annual fee waived for 1st year for new accounts F = fixed rate (all other rates are variable); OM denotes interest paid on maturity

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE
PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (01692 500 677)





NATIONAL SAVINGS

	Gross rate	At tax rates 25%	40%	Min/maximum investmnt £	Notice	Contact
Ordinary A/c[1]	2.00	1.50	1.20	10-10,000		01416494555
Investment A/c* [3]	5.25	3.94	3.15	20-499	1mth	01416494555
Income Bond* [3]	6.50	4.88	3.90	2,000-24,999	3mth	01253766151
First Opt Bond[4]	6.40	4.80	3.84	1,000-250,000		01416362558
42nd Issue Cert†[2]	5.85			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Children's Bond†	7.85			25-1,000	1mth	01416362635
Gen Ext Rate	3.51					
Capital Bond[3]	7.75	5.81	4.65	100-250,000	8day	01416362603
8th Index Linked†[2]	3.00			100-10,000	8day	01913864900
Pensnrs Bond S2 [3]	7.50	5.63	4.50	500-20,000[5]	60day	01253766151

*[1] first £70 (£140 jt) of int tax free, inst accs for up to £100 [2] Additional hldgs up to £20,000 for reinvested proceeds †Tax free *Rates gross and vble [3] Guaranteed when held for 5 years [4] 0.3% net bonus for £20,000+ [5] £40,000 jt in addition to S1 holdings [6] Taxable but cred in full*

PENSION ANNUITIES

All figures are the gross annual annuity (£100,000 purchase), *guaranteed* 5 years, paid monthly in advance

SINGLE LIFE (level ann)	Male: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Prudential ....Level	£10,377	£11,391	£12,758
Generali ....Level	£10,138	£11,167	£12,508
Royal Life ....Level	£10,047	£11,183	£12,723
Canada Life ....Level	£10,058	£11,227	£12,810
Stndrd Life ....Level	£10,136	£11,204	£12,584

SINGLE LIFE	Female: Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Generali ....Level	£9,246	£10,091	£11,263
Royal Life ....Level	£9,313	£10,149	£11,380
Canada Life ....Level	£9,230	£10,069	£11,300
Comrcl Union.........Level	£9,072	£9,982	£11,242
Prudential ....Level	£9,625	£10,355	£11,428

JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Prudential ....Level	£9,237	£9,803	£10,599
Royal Life ....Level	£8,855	£9,496	£10,413
Equitble Life..........Level	£8,853	£9,374	£10,093
Canada Life ....Level	£8,815	£9,474	£10,408
Generali ....Level	£9,119	£9,732	£10,581

Source: Annuity Direct (0171 588 9393)

Compiled by: Lizanne Rose

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME
Rates as at October 5, 1995

	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5,000	AIG Life	5.00
	10,000	AIG Life	5.15
	20,000	AIG Life	5.25
	50,000	AIG Life	5.30
2 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.50
	20,000	AIG Life	5.60
	50,000	AIG Life	5.65
3 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	5.75
	50,000	AIG Life	5.80
4 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	6.00
	50,000	AIG Life	6.10
5 Years			
	1,000	Premium Life	6.25
	3,000	Pinnacle Insr	6.80

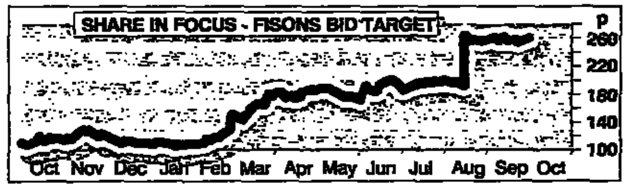
Source: Chamberlain de Broë 0171-434 4222. Net rates. Income and capital guaranteed. Early surrender. Terms vary. Monthly income may be available.

PIBS

FIXED RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	% Gross yield	Issue price	Minimum purchase amount
Birmingham Midshires	9.375%	94.94	9.869	100.17	1,000
Bradford & Bingley	*11.625%*	*116.76*	*9.942*	*100.13*	*10,000*
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	130.29	9.964	100.20	10,000
Bristol & West	13.375%	133.50	10.000	100.34	1,000
Britannia	13.000%	*129.60*	*10.012*	*100.42*	*1,000*
Coventry	12.125%	120.25	10.065	100.75	1,000
First National	11.750%	110.36	10.636	100.25	10,000
Leeds Permanent	13.625%	138.84	*9.794*	*100.00*	*50,000*
Halifax	8.750%	90.36	9.683	100.62	50,000
Halifax	12.000%	121.92	9.684	100.28	50,000
Leeds & Holbeck	*13.375%*	132.52	*10.073*	*100.23*	*1,000*
Newcastle	10.750%	108.90	9.863	100.32	1,000
Newcastle	12.625%	127.81	9.866	100.45	1,000
Northern Rock	*12.625%*	*129.75*	*9.711*	*100.14*	*1,000*
Skipton	12.875%	128.36	10.012	100.48	1,000

FLOATING RATE	Gross coupon	Buying price	Issue price	Minimum purchase
First National	9.30000%	100.75	100.00	1,000
Cheshire (28/03-28/09)	*9.24766%*	*102.63*	*100.00*	*1,000*

PIBS = Permanent interest-bearing shares
Source: ABN AMRO Hoare Govett — 0171 601 0101



LARGER LENDERS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Yorkshire 0800 378836	1.99	neg	95	6.10% disc 1 yr 2% disc 18 mths
Bristol & West 0800 100117	1.00	£15k+	90	Fxd to 31.8.96
Northern Rock 0800 591 500	*1.94*	to £150k	90	6.05% discount to 1.1.97
Banks				
Abbey National Local branch	2.64	to £125k	75	5.35% discount to 30.9.96
Midland 0800 494999	2.79	£100k+	80	4.86% discount for 1 year

LARGER LOANS

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Chorley & District 01257 279373	1.75	£60-120k	80	6% disc 6 mths
Hinckley & Rugby 0800 774499	0.75	to £150k	70	Fixed to 1.9.96
Bristol & West 0800 100117	*1.00*	*£15k+*	90	*Fixd to 31.8.96*
Banks				
Bank of Ireland 01734 510100	0.99	£20-145k	95	7.51%dsc-6 mths 3% dsc-6 mths
Bank of Scotland 0131 243 5753	1.00	to £200k	95	6.49% discount for 6 months

Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societies				
Brad & Bingley 0800 252993	1.89no	min/max	95	fixed to 1.10.96
Lambeth 0800 225221	4.74	£15-150k	95	3.25% discount for 1 year
Skipton 0800 446776	1.84	£25-150k	95	6% disc 5 mnths 1.75% disc 1 year
Banks				
Midland Bank 0800 494999	3.49	£50-100k	95	4.36% discount for 1 year
Abbey National Local branch	3.64	£125k+	95	4.35% to 30.9.96

Larger lenders, larger loans and first-time buyers tables supplied by Blay's Guides Ltd. Further information: Blay's Guides, 01753 880482.

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AEGON LIFE ASSURANCE				
Aegon House, Lanark Square, London E14 9XS 0171 538 8800				
Balanced	498.80	527.90	-0.60	...
UK Equity	632.10	668.90	+0.40	...
Property	503.80	533.20	+0.50	...
Fixed Interest	335.90	355.50	+1.40	...
Money	258.40	273.50	+0.20	...
International	423.60	448.30	-3.90	...
ABBEY LIFE				
Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL 01202 292373				
Property Fd Inc	260.80	274.60	...	0
-do- Acc	492.20	518.20	..	..
Equity Fd Inc	189.20	199.20	+2.10	..
-do- Acc	259.60	273.30	+2.80	...
Selective Fd	515.50	542.70	+2.40	...
Money Fd	391.00	411.60	+0.30	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	378.30	398.30	...	...
Equity Ser 4	241.90	254.70	+2.00	...
Man Ser 4	705.60	742.80	+5.70	...
Conv Ser 4	338.90	356.80	+0.30	...
Money Ser 4	338.50	356.40	+0.30	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	359.20	378.20	+1.60	..
American Ser 4	548.40	577.30	-11.70	...
High Inc Ser 4	749.10	788.60	-11.60	...
Indexed Inv Ser 4	219.80	231.40	+0.30	...
Japan Ser 4	343.00	361.10	..	0
ALBANY LIFE				
3 Darkes Lane, Potters Bar EN6 1AJ 01707 42311				
Equity Fd Acc	1701.70	1791.20	+18.70	...
European Fd Acc	395.20	415.90	+1.40	..
Fixed Int Acc	531.70	559.60	+5.20	...
Gtd Money Acc	344.20	362.30	+0.30	..
Intl Managed Acc	635.90	669.30	+0.60	...
Int Fxd Int Acc	344.00	362.10	-0.80	...
Japan Fund	253.60	266.90	-2.70	...
N American Acc	357.20	376.00	-4.10	...
Prop Fd Acc	451.60	475.30	+0.20	..
Multiple Inv Acc	1101.90	1159.80	+7.30	...
ALLIED DUNBAR ASSURANCE				
Swindon SN1 1EL 01793 514514				
Fxd Int Dep Acc	385.40	405.70	+0.30	...
Equity Acc	1533.30	1613.90	+2.40	...
Property Acc	595.90	627.30	-0.20	..
Far East Acc	317.00	333.70	+0.90	...
Managed Capital	566.40	596.30	-0.50	...
-do- Acc	1174.80	1236.70	+1.40	..
Overseas Acc	1041.40	1096.30	+6.40	...
Gilt Edged Acc	507.80	534.60	-0.40	...
Amer Equity Acc	896.00	943.20	-13.40	...
Amer Man Acc	377.30	397.20	-8.80	...
Amer Prop Acc	118.80	125.10	-8.90	...
Distribution Bonds	24.30	25.60	+0.10	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW LIFE ASSURANCE				
Amersham Road, High Wycombe, Bucks 01494 463463				
Reserve Ser 6	165.60	174.30	+0.40	...
Balncd Ser 6	770.40	810.90	-1.40	...
Opportunity Ser 6	177.90	187.20	-0.40	...
Distribution Ser 6	101.10	106.40	+0.80	7.02
UK Equities Ser 6	1084.90	1142.00	+8.30	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	1147.70	1208.10	+13.10	...
North Amer Ser 6	524.50	552.10	-15.60	...
Far East Ser 6	573.80	604.00	+3.50	...
Europe Ser 6	410.90	432.50	-3.40	..
Intnl Ser 6	610.50	642.60	-5.40	...
Property Ser 6	561.90	591.40	+1.30	...
Fixed Int Ser 6	458.10	482.20	+1.20	...
Ind-Lnkd Sec Sr6	187.90	197.70	+0.30	...
Gteed Dep Ser 6	307.30	323.40	+0.40	...
BARCLAYS LIFE				
252 Romford Road, London E7 9JB 0181 534 5544				
Equity Acc	929.60	978.60	+10.80	...
-do- Initial	596.50	627.90	+7.00	...
Gilt Edged Acc	401.60	422.80	+2.20	...
-do- Initial	260.00	273.70	+1.50	...
International Acc	422.40	444.70	-0.60	...
-do- Initial	271.70	286.00	-0.40	...
Managed Acc	564.30	594.10	+3.70	...
-do- Initial	364.20	383.40	+2.40	...
Money Acc	300.30	316.20	+0.20	...
Property Acc	306.00	322.20	+0.40	..
-do- Initial	196.50	206.90	+0.10	...
America Acc	317.00	333.70	-2.60	...
Australia Acc	224.60	236.50	-2.50	...
Financial Acc	381.30	401.40	+4.30	...
500 Accum	480.00	505.30	-2.00	...
Japan Genl Acc	310.30	326.70	+0.90	...
Income Acc	566.30	596.20	+7.20	..
Leisure Acc	274.70	289.20	+3.50	...
Special Sits Acc	268.40	282.60	+4.20	...
Univ Tech Acc	174.60	183.80	-0.80	...
BLACK HORSE LIFE				
Mountbatten House, Chatham, Kent ME4 4JF 01634 834000				
The Managed Fd	865.03	865.03	+6.59	...
Income Fund	828.38	871.97	+4.19	...
Extra Income	753.52	793.19	+10.73	.
Worldwide Gth	513.34	540.36	+0.39	...
Balanced Fund	725.78	763.98	+10.87	.
Smllr Cos Recov	848.57	893.24	+4.05	.
N Amer & Genl	394.85	415.64	-0.40	.
Pacific Basin	429.71	452.33	+4.09	.
German Growth	247.71	260.75	-5.19	.
Japan Growth	187.30	197.16	+0.90	.
The UK Gth Fd	231.66	243.86	+3.59	.
Cond Euro Gth	142.67	150.18	-1.22	.
Property Fund	414.64	436.46	+1.05	.
Fixed Interest	326.90	344.11	+1.79	..
Cash Fund	292.35	307.74	+0.26	..
Managed Inv	527.21	554.95	+10.02	...
Nth Amer Recov	266.55	280.58	-4.52	...
Abtrust Fund				
Managed Grth	517.03	544.25	+0.38	...
BRITANNIA LIFE ASSURANCE				
PO Box 57, Greenock, Renfrewshire 01475 868000				
Measured Perf	171.20	181.10	-1.00	...
Performance Plus	177.70	188.00	-1.50	...
With Profit Perf	177.40	187.70	+0.10	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Opportunity	199.10	210.60	-0.20	...
Euro Opportunity	243.20	257.30	-3.40	...
North Amer Opp	176.90	187.10	-6.80	...
Far East Opp	197.40	208.80	+2.60	...
Gwth Prop Ser 1	130.00	136.90	+2.10	...
Gth Prop Ser 2	176.70	186.90	-2.30	...
Fixed Int	204.60	216.50	+2.50	...
Cash	162.00	171.40	+0.10	6.74
Overseas	204.70	216.60	-1.80	...
Formerly LAS				
Managed Fund	363.30	382.50	+0.30	..
UK Equity	633.90	667.30	+18.10	...
Property	257.30	270.90	+4.30	...
Money Market	259.80	273.50	+0.30	...
Fixed Interest	304.70	320.80	+2.80	...
Japan	357.90	376.80	+2.90	...
North America	165.00	173.70	-4.20	...
International	327.70	345.00	-2.60	...
European	316.60	333.30	-4.40	...
Far East	140.90	148.40	+3.30	...
CANADA LIFE				
2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA 01707 51122				
Equity Growth 1	277.80	...	...	...
Managed	353.30	371.90	+3.30	...
Property	240.80	253.50	+6.10	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	251.30	264.60	+2.10	...
Equity	403.50	424.80	+4.30	...
Cash	222.30	234.10	+0.10	...
C Life Euro Mgd	408.20	429.70	-0.60	...
C Life Intl Fd	369.60	389.10	+0.20	...
Managed Fund	764.50	804.70	+3.40	...
Property Fund	552.20	581.30	-2.50	...
Equity Fund	998.00	1050.50	+8.70	...
Gilt Edged Fd	639.40	673.00	+0.90	...
Deposit Fund	341.10	359.10	-0.50	...
Investment Fd	428.50	449.90	+3.90	...
International	578.30	608.70	+0.30	...
CITY OF WESTMINSTER ASSURANCE				
Sentry House, 500 Avebury Blvd, Milton Keynes MK9 2NU. 01908 606101				
Property Fund	162.10	170.70	...	...
Managed Fund	670.40	705.70	+8.50	...
Equity Fund	392.30	413.00	+7.40	...
CLERICAL MEDICAL/FIDELITY INVESTMENTS				
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH. 0117 9290566				
Assurance Funds				
Sapphire Mixed	308.20	324.50	-1.30	..
Ruby	185.30	195.10	-0.50	...
Emerald	150.40	158.40	...	...
Equity	355.40	374.20	+2.90	..
Property	233.90	246.30	...	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	211.80	223.00	-0.50	..
Indexed Secs	175.30	184.60	+0.30	...
Cash	193.70	203.90	+0.10	...
Nth American	254.20	267.60	-4.40	...
Far East	332.10	349.60	-3.60	...
International	250.90	264.00	-0.70	...
Special Sits	379.30	398.50	+0.90	...
Intnl Income	314.20	330.80	-1.40	...
American Inc	212.80	224.00	-1.10	...
European	347.10	365.40	-5.30	...
Japanese	134.10	141.20	-1.10	...
SE Asia	375.20	395.00	+2.50	...
With Profits Reg	173.60	182.80	+0.30	...
-do- Spec	173.60	182.80	+0.30	...
Flexible Retirement Plans Funds				
Mixed	352.70	371.30	+0.90	...
Equity	427.20	449.70	+3.60	...
Property	212.30	223.50	-0.20	..
Gilt & Fixed Int	268.10	282.30	+0.60	..
Index Linked	185.30	195.10	-0.50	..
Cash	261.70	275.50	+0.30	..
Nth American	316.70	333.40	-8.60	..
Far East Acc	313.40	329.90	-3.10	..
International Acc	321.40	338.40	-2.80	..
Special Sits	560.00	589.50	-2.70	..
European Plex	494.50	520.60	-7.50	..
COLONIAL MUTUAL GROUP				
Colonial Mutual House, Chatham Maritime, Kent ME4 4YY. 01634 890 000				
Unitsl Key 1	228.49	...	...	...
-do- Pacemaker 1	333.27	...	...	...
-do- Cash	209.41	220.43	+0.10	..
-do- Equity	583.46	614.17	+6.42	..
-do- Fxd Int	370.25	389.74	+0.02	..
-do- Managed	416.25	438.16	+3.23	..
-do- Property	295.09	310.62	-0.54	..
Pensr Cash Cap	210.90	222.01	+0.10	..
-do- Cash Inv	317.92	334.66	-0.37	..
-do- Equity Cap	£15.19	£15.99	+18.01	..
-do- Equity Inv	£22.90	£24.11	+28.76	..
-do- Fixed Cap	402.25	423.43	+0.44	..
-do- Fixed Inv	606.38	638.30	-1.09	..
-do- Index Cap	204.97	215.77	+0.40	..
-do- Index Inv	308.99	325.26	+0.62	..
-do- Mngd Cap	607.74	639.73	+5.94	..
-do- Mngd Inv	916.13	964.36	+9.50	..
COMMERCIAL UNION				
St Helen's, 1 Undershaft, EC3 0171 283 7500				
Var Ann Acc (5) 1	780.26	...	+11.27	..
Var Ann (5) 1	97.98	...	+0.93	..
Prime Managed	433.30	456.20	+1.30	...
Prime UK Equity	536.90	565.20	-1.10	...
Prime Int Equity	314.50	331.10	+1.00	...
Prime Property	251.20	264.50	+0.20	...
Prime Fxd Int	242.10	254.90	+1.70	...
Prime Index-Lnk	176.60	185.90	+0.50	...
Prime Cash	213.60	224.90	+0.20	...
CONFEDERATION LIFE				
Lytton Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2NN 01438 744840				
Managed Fund	1194.80	1257.60	-11.20	..
Equity Fund	1744.90	1836.70	-9.80	..
CROWN FINANCIAL				
Crown House, Woking GU21 1XW 01483 715033				
Life Mangd Acc	637.80	670.90	+3.90	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	387.60	407.90	+1.80	...
Life Equity Acc	909.10	956.80	+9.00	...
Life Money Acc	309.70	325.90	+0.20	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Life Inv Tst Acc	846.30	890.80	+1.50	...
Life Intl Acc	519.30	546.40	-1.10	...
Life High Inc Acc	868.50	913.80	+13.40	...
Life Property Acc	248.10	261.10	+0.30	...
Crown Bm Inv A	1416.60	...	...	...
Brewin Equity	786.30	827.60	+2.50	...
EAGLE STAR LIFE ASSURANCE				
Bath Road, Cheltenham, Gloucester GL53 7LQ. 01242 221311				
Secure Fund	181.30	190.90	+0.10	..
Managed Fund	256.90	270.50	+1.40	..
-do- Series 2	169.80	178.80	+0.90	..
Adventurous Fd	215.80	227.20	+0.20	..
-do- Series 2	166.70	175.50	+0.20	..
Equity Mngd Fd	255.70	269.20	-0.50	..
-do- Series 2	171.00	180.10	-0.30	..
UK Pref Fxd Int	149.40	157.30	-1.20	..
UK Equity Fund	180.50	190.00	+1.70	..
Property Fund	118.80	125.10	+0.10	..
Envrnmntl Opps	180.60	190.20	+0.70	...
Euro Fund	202.70	213.40	-1.10	..
North Amer Fd	215.20	226.60	-5.00	..
Oriental Ops	233.10	245.40	+2.30	..
Japanese Fund	118.30	124.60	-1.10	..
Bd & West Life	128.90	135.70	+0.10	..
Bd & West Pen	147.90	155.70	+0.20	..
EAGLE STAR/MIDLAND				
60 St Mary Axe, London EC3. 0171 929 1111				
Eagle/Mid Uts	294.40	305	+4.90	3
FRIENDS' PROVIDENT				
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH 01722 413366				
Managed	327.40	344.70	+2.70	..
UK Equity	440.80	464.10	+5.80	..
Stewardship	384.00	404.30	-2.50	..
Overseas Equity	301.50	317.40	+0.10	..
North American	161.80	170.40	-1.40	..
Pacific Basin	170.40	179.40	+2.00	..
European	243.30	256.20	+0.10	..
Property	192.10	202.30	+0.20	..
Fixed Interest	247.40	260.50	+3.60	..
Index Linked	174.70	183.90	+0.80	..
Cash	207.10	218.00	+0.10	..
FP Life Assurance ex NM				
Fixed Interest	559.70	589.10	+2.90	..
Managed	735.80	774.50	+2.30	..
Deposit	352.10	370.60	...	..
Property	486.10	511.60	+0.40	..
American	460.30	484.50	-3.70	..
Australian	538.20	566.50	-5.00	..
European	587.70	618.60	...	..
Income Acc	806.90	849.30	+8.10	..
-do- Dist	471.50	496.40	+6.10	4.62
International	332.20	349.60	-0.20	..
Japan Smaller	459.60	483.70	+2.00	..
Singapore & Mal	392.10	412.70	+2.10	..
Smaller Cos	425.50	447.80	+1.30	..
Tokyo Fund	644.80	678.70	-1.10	..
UK Equity	634.40	667.70	+3.20	..
CCM Vangd Mg	808.40	850.90	+7.20	..
GT UNIT MANAGERS LTD				
Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, London EC2Y 5AS. 0171 710 4567				
GT Plan Far East	323.50	340.60	-1.70	...
GT Plan Wwide	503.00	529.50	-3.00	...
GAN LIFE & PENSIONS				
Gan House, Harlow, Essex CM20 2EW. 01279 626262				
Portfolio Acc	731.90	731.90	+5.50	...
-do- Inv A	731.80	770.40	+5.80	...
UK Equity	445.90	469.50	+6.00	...
Gilt Plus	209.50	220.60	+1.30	...
Managed	327.00	344.30	+2.60	...
GENERAL ACCIDENT				
2 Rougier St, York YO1 1HR. 01904 628982				
Managed	225.20	237.00	-0.60	..
Unitised Profs	144.80	152.50	+0.30	..
UK Equity	313.70	330.10	+2.70	..
Fixed Int	199.10	209.50	-1.00	..
Index-Linked	171.20	180.10	+0.50	..
Cash Deposit	179.40	188.80	+0.20	..
Property	185.60	195.30	+0.20	..
International	181.90	191.30	-0.50	..
American	181.90	191.40	-2.50	..
Japan	239.10	251.60	-0.50	..
Japan Smllr Cos	244.90	257.70	-0.40	..
European	193.50	203.60	-2.90	..
Pacific Fund	290.30	305.50	-2.30	..
Conv Life	135.70	142.80	-0.40	..
GUARDIAN ROYAL EXCHANGE				
Royal Exchange London EC3. 0171 283 7101				
Ass Prop Bds	839.00	873.90	...	..
Managed Initial	491.40	517.30	+0.60	..
-do- Acc	714.10	751.70	+1.30	..
Equity Initial	753.30	793.00	+4.00	..
-do- Acc	1094.60	1152.30	+6.20	..
Fixed Int Initial	447.50	471.10	-0.30	..
-do- Acc	650.30	684.50	-0.20	..
Intl Initial	476.10	501.20	+3.20	..
-do- Acc	691.90	728.20	+4.80	..
Nth Amer Initial	207.90	218.80	-2.40	..
-do- Acc	274.90	289.40	-3.40	..
Pacific Initial	237.50	250.00	+1.90	..
-do- Acc	311.10	327.50	+2.60	..
Property Initial	181.50	191.10	...	..
-do- Acc	263.60	277.50	...	..
Index-Lnkd Initl	163.10	171.70	...	..
-do- Acc	215.70	227.00	...	..
Deposit Initial	200.60	211.10	+0.10	..
-do- Acc	291.40	306.70	-0.20	..
Euro Initial	110.90	116.70	-1.00	..
-do- Acc	135.50	142.60	-1.20	..
HALIFAX LIFE LTD				
PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110				
Life Funds				
Foundation	26.91	28.32	-0.01	..
Balanced	27.30	28.74	+0.08	..
Opportunity	27.64	29.10	+0.15	..
Deposit	24.35	25.63	+0.02	
Pension Funds				
Foundation	27.14	28.85	-0.05	..
Balanced	27.60	29.06	-0.13	..

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Opportunity	28.08	29.56	+0.21	...
Deposit	24.60	25.90	+0.03	...
HAMBRO ASSURED				
Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR. 01772 848080				
Managed	179.60	189.00	+1.40	...
-do- Pens	223.70	235.40	+2.30	...
UK Equity	188.20	198.10	+3.00	...
-do- Pens	219.20	230.70	+4.20	...
International	156.20	164.40	-0.20	...
-do- Pens	170.70	179.60	-0.10	...
Deposit	143.50	151.00	+0.10	...
-do- Pens	171.50	180.60	+0.20	...
HENDERSON ADMINISTRATION				
3 Finsbury Avenue, London EC2M 2PA 0171 638 5757				
UK Equity Fd	387.00	411.80	+3.50	...
North America	392.30	417.40	-5.30	...
Far East Fund	596.00	634.10	+4.50	...
Global Managed	496.50	528.20	+0.80	...
Deposit Fund	236.20	248.70	+0.20	...
Prime Residential	139.80	147.20	...	...
European Fund	283.40	301.50	-4.50	...
Fixed Interest	64.00	68.10	+0.40	...
HILL SAMUEL LIFE				
NLA Tower, Addiscombe Road, Croydon 0181 686 4355				
Security Fund	579.30	613.10	+6.60	...
British Fund	587.90	622.20	+8.50	...
International	587.00	621.20	-2.40	...
Dollar Fund	451.50	477.90	-10.10	...
Capital Fund	527.50	558.30	-3.30	...
Income Fund	760.90	805.20	+12.60	...
Property Series A	461.40	488.30	...	4.50
Property Units	762.80	901.00	...	...
Financial Fund	646.00	683.60	-3.40	...
Managed Ser A	565.60	619.90	-3.40	...
Managed Units	1051.70	1107.10	+6.20	...
High Yield Fund	694.10	734.50	+8.60	...
Money Series A	298.20	315.60	+0.20	...
Money Units	396.30	417.30	+0.20	...
Equity Fund	672.30	711.50	+4.50	...
Fixed Interest	380.20	402.40	+1.60	...
Indexed Secs	193.70	205.00	+1.10	...
European Fund	785.80	831.60	-4.00	...
Natural Res	309.40	327.50	-3.80	...
Far East Fund	666.10	704.90	-0.70	...
Smaller Cos	543.10	574.80	+3.50	...
Special Sits	516.70	546.80	+6.10	...
Man Currency	273.70	289.70	-0.30	...
Japanese Tech	314.50	332.70	-4.70	...
US Smaller Cos	319.10	337.70	-7.60	...
Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd				
Deposit	256.70	270.20	+0.20	...
Financial Ser 1	52.50	56.30	-0.30	...
Fixed Interest	339.20	357.20	-0.20	...
Gold	83.60	88.10	-3.30	...
Managed	651.60	686.00	-10.30	...
Mngd Growth	207.90	218.90	-7.40	...
Mngd Opp	219.80	231.50	-9.20	...
Property	330.00	347.30	...	...
Residential Prop	102.90	108.40	-0.10	...
TSB American	231.40	243.70	-8.70	...
TSB Brit Gwth	950.20	1000.30	-6.80	...
TSB European	279.30	294.00	-7.00	...
TSB Income	417.50	439.50	-1.70	...
TSB Intl	447.50	471.20	-8.70	...
TSB Intl Inc	305.40	321.60	-0.70	...
TSB Pacific	415.20	437.10	-7.10	...
TSB Prem Inc	254.70	276.60	-1.20	...
IRISH LIFE ASSURANCE				
Irish Life Centre, Victoria Street, St Albans, Herts AL1 5TF. 01727 48181				
Global Managed	615.10	647.50	+6.60	...
Global Property	308.30	324.50	+1.30	...
Global Fixed Int	532.10	560.10	+4.20	...
Global Equity	667.00	702.10	+8.60	...
Global Cash	220.80	232.40	+0.20	...
LAURENTIAN LIFE				
Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 7RZ 01452 371371				
Property	499.20	525.40	-0.10	..
Managed	445.70	469.10	-0.50	..
American	464.60	489.00	-6.50	..
UK Equity Fd	489.30	515.00	+3.10	..
Japan	206.50	217.30	-2.70	..
Index-Lkd	191.80	201.80	-0.10	..
High Yield	927.50	976.30	+9.90	..
Money	416.20	438.10	+0.20	..
International	416.60	438.50	-3.10	..
Henderson Active	218.80	230.30	-0.80	..
Perpetual Active	348.90	367.20	+1.30	..
Growth Acc	697.00	734.60	+1.40	..
Gilt Edged	447.30	470.80	-0.10	..
European	164.70	173.30	-1.60	..
Far East	215.50	226.80	-1.60	..
LEGAL & GENERAL UNIT ASSURANCE				
2 Montefiore Road, Hove, Sussex BN3 1SE 01273 526000				
B Soc Linkd Init	134.80	141.90	...	...
-do- Acc	191.40	201.50	-0.10	...
Brit Opps Int	156.30	164.60	-1.50	...
-do- Acc	199.90	209.40	-2.40	...
Cash Initial	168.50	177.40	-0.40	...
-do- Acc	297.50	313.20	-0.10	...
Equity Initial	710.00	747.40	+6.70	...
-do- Acc	1253.20	1319.20	+15.20	...
Fixed Initial	352.10	370.70	-1.40	...
-do- Acc	621.50	654.20	+4.10	...
Index-Lnkd Gilt	136.00	143.20	-0.40	...
-do- Acc	204.80	215.60	-1.20	...
Intl Initial	330.70	348.20	-1.50	...
-do- Acc	574.60	604.90	-1.40	...
Managed Initial	499.30	525.60	+2.00	...
-do- Acc	881.30	927.70	+5.80	...
Property Initial	218.30	229.80	-0.50	...
-do- Acc	385.40	405.70	+0.30	...
LINCOLN NATIONAL				
1 Olympic Way, Wembley, Middx HA9 0NB 0181 902 8876				
Equity Units 1	*138.73	...	+1.29	...
Property Units 1	427.35	...	-0.02	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Bal Bd Exec Unit	70.34	74.04	+0.16	...
2nd Equity Acc	682.00	717.90	+8.60	...
2nd High Inc Ac	644.50	678.40	+7.60	...
2nd Property Acc	250.40	263.60	-0.10	...
2nd Mngd 2 Acc	187.10	197.00	-0.40	...
2nd Mngd 3 Acc	492.20	518.10	+1.10	...
2nd Mngd 4 Acc	243.70	256.50	-0.60	...
2nd Deposit Acc	293.40	308.90	+0.20	...
2nd Gilt Acc	316.10	332.70	+2.10	...
2nd Amer Acc	816.40	859.40	-27.00	...
2nd Intl Mny Acc	270.60	284.90	-4.40	...
2nd Index Acc	215.30	226.70	+0.60	...
2nd Far East Acc	445.10	468.60	-1.70	...
2nd Global Acc	185.70	195.50	-1.90	...
2nd Euro Acc	171.90	181.00	-1.30	...
2nd Japan Acc	187.70	197.60	-1.70	...
2nd Int Cr Bd Acc	169.70	178.60	-2.90	...
2nd Cap Gth Acc	137.30	144.50	-0.50	...
LONDON LIFE				
100 Temple Street, Bristol, BS1 6EA 0117 9279179				
Equity 1	958.90	...	+2.50	...
Fixed Interest 1	443.40	...	+1.80	...
Property 1	426.20	...	+1.00	...
Deposit 1	302.90	...	+0.40	...
Mixed 1	631.90	...	+1.70	...
Indexed Stock 1	221.20	...	-0.10	...
International 1	306.70	...	+1.00	...
Equity A 1	222.70	...	+0.60	...
Fixed Int A 1	196.60	...	+0.90	...
Property A 1	187.20	...	+0.50	...
Deposit A 1	177.90	...	+0.30	...
Mixed A 1	207.50	...	+0.60	...
Index Stock A 1	173.10	...	...	...
International A 1	191.50	...	+0.70	...
Equity P 1	798.10	...	+3.20	...
Fixed Int P 1	586.60	...	+1.70	...
Property P 1	330.60	...	-0.40	...
Deposit P 1	359.50	...	+0.70	...
Mixed P 1	583.10	...	+2.20	...
Index Stock P 1	223.40	...	-0.10	...
International P 1	360.40	...	+1.70	...
LONDON & MANCHESTER ASSURANCE				
Winslade Park, Exeter EX5 1DS. 01392 282456				
Inv Trust Cap 1	998.50	...	+2.80	...
-do- Acc 1	1040.00	...	+5.90	...
Property Cap 1	145.60	...	...	...
-do- Acc 1	242.80	...	+0.20	...
Fxd Interest Cap 1	195.30	...	+1.30	...
-do- Acc 1	327.70	...	+2.40	...
Equity Cap 1	338.50	...	+3.60	...
-do- Acc 1	576.10	...	+6.40	...
Internatl Cap 1	235.70	...	-0.60	...
-do- Acc 1	397.20	...	-0.60	...
Gtd Deposit Cap 1	163.60	...	...	...
-do- Acc 1	271.50	...	+0.10	7.20
Flexible Cap 1	356.20	...	+2.20	...
-do- Acc 1	604.50	...	+3.00	...
Moneymaker Fd 1	487.40	...	+3.30	...
Capital Growth 1	1871.80	...	+17.90	...
M & G				
Victoria Road, Chelmsford, Essex CM1 1FB 01245 266266				
Amer Bond Acc	465.60	499.00	-4.50	...
Amer Rec Bond	532.80	559.50	-10.40	...
Am Smlr Cos Bd	251.50	264.10	-8.90	...
Australasia Bd	238.40	250.40	-0.80	...
Commodity Bond	334.10	350.90	-4.80	...
Deposit Bond Acc	372.90	391.60	+0.30	...
Equity Bond Acc	1656.20	1739.10	+0.40	...
European Bd Acc	413.40	434.20	-1.90	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	807.90	848.30	+9.40	...
Far East Bd Acc	314.70	330.50	-0.30	...
Gilt Bond Acc	453.70	476.50	+1.80	...
Gold Bond Acc	163.80	172.00	-1.40	...
High Yield Bond	355.40	373.30	+4.80	...
Index-Lnk Gt Bd	217.00	227.90	+1.00	...
International Bd	799.00	839.10	-8.30	...
Japan Bond Acc	245.20	257.50	-1.30	...
Japan Sm Cos Ac	237.00	248.90	+1.40	...
Managed Bonds	945.30	992.70	+14.40	...
Prop Bond Acc	355.90	373.80	-1.70	...
Rec Bond Acc	830.50	872.10	+1.40	...
MGM ASSURANCE				
MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY. 01903 204631				
UK Equity	243.20	256.00	+3.60	...
UK Equity Acc	353.20	371.80	+5.50	...
Special Sits	99.00	104.20	+1.50	...
Special Sits Acc	143.90	151.50	+2.30	...
North American	197.10	207.50	-0.80	...
N American Acc	286.30	301.40	-1.00	...
Pacific Basin	364.00	383.20	-0.40	...
Pacific Basin Acc	528.90	556.80	-0.10	...
Fixed Interest	286.10	301.20	+0.60	...
Fixed Interest Acc	416.10	438.00	+1.10	...
Property	178.40	187.80	...	...
Property Acc	259.50	273.20	+0.20	...
Deposit	153.20	161.30	+0.10	...
Deposit Acc	222.80	234.60	+0.20	...
Managed	274.00	288.50	+2.10	...
Managed Acc	366.90	386.30	+3.20	...
MERCHANT INVESTORS				
St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH 0117 9266 366				
Property	429.90	452.50	+0.30	...
UK Equity	383.70	403.80	+0.30	...
Gilt Edged	596.10	627.40	+3.30	...
Interest Fund	401.40	422.50	+0.40	...
Managed Fund	520.00	547.30	+0.20	...
Intl Equity	623.40	656.20	-1.00	...
North American	232.20	244.40	-1.70	...
Far East	462.00	486.30	+3.60	...
Intl Currency	263.60	277.40	+0.10	...
NPI				
48 Gracechurch Street, London EC3P 3HH 0171 623 4200				
Managed	524.40	552.00	+2.20	...
UK Equity	676.40	712.00	+5.30	...
Overseas Equity	512.00	538.90	-2.20	...
Americas	462.00	486.30	-5.60	...
Far East	576.60	606.90	+5.40	...
Property	221.80	233.40	-0.10	...
Fixed Interest	403.20	424.40	+0.20	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Indexed Gilt	241.10	253.70	...	...
Deposit	223.90	235.60	+0.20	...
NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds				
PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP 01603 622200				
Managed Fund	1545.10	1626.40	+3.10	...
Equity Fund	3425.10	3605.40	+21.00	...
Property Fd	590.00	621.10	-0.10	...
Fixed Int Fd	614.90	647.30	+1.70	...
Deposit Fund	361.90	380.90	+0.30	...
Intl Fund	260.70	274.40	-1.30	...
OLD MUTUAL				
2 Bartley Way, Hook, Hants RG27 9XA 01256 768888				
Equity Fund Acc	320.20	337.80	+2.60	...
Fxd Interest Acc	249.50	263.20	+1.10	...
International Acc	264.30	278.90	+1.60	...
Managed Acc	232.00	244.80	+1.40	...
Property Acc	218.30	230.30	-1.20	...
Money Acc	160.00	168.80	+0.10	...
Spec Mkt Acc	227.50	240.00	+2.90	...
Japan Equity Acc	115.40	121.80	+1.30	...
N Amer Acc	167.00	176.20	-3.80	...
Pacific Acc	156.60	165.20	+2.20	...
European Acc	192.30	202.90	-3.00	...
PEARL ASSURANCE				
The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY. 01733 470 470				
Inv Prop Dist	157.90	166.30	-1.10	...
Prop Acc (Gross)	332.60	350.20	-2.30	...
Inv Equity	1315.60	1384.90	+18.90	...
Inv Managed	913.90	962.10	+8.60	...
Ret Managed	1039.60	1094.40	+9.60	...
PROVIDENT MUTUAL				
Six Hills Way, Stevenage, Herts SG1 2ST 01438 732000				
Managed Ord	512.60	539.60	+1.90	...
Managed Initial	336.40	354.10	+1.00	...
Equity Ord	796.20	838.60	+6.70	...
Equity Init	522.80	550.30	+4.00	...
I-Linked Gilt *Ord*	208.30	219.30	+0.50	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	142.70	150.20	+0.10	...
Oseas Equity Ord	399.20	420.20	-1.50	...
Oseas Equity Init	262.00	275.80	-1.10	...
Property Ord	278.20	292.80	...	...
Property Init	182.60	192.20	-0.10	...
Fixed Int Ord	292.50	307.90	+0.30	...
Fixed Int Init	191.90	202.00	...	...
Deposit Ord	213.30	224.50	+0.20	...
Deposit Initial	140.00	147.40	+0.10	...
PRUDENTIAL				
Holborn Bars, London EC1N 2NH 0171 405 9222				
Managed	373.20	388.80	+1.50	...
PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FDS				
1 Stephen Street, London W1P 2AP 0171 548 3228				
Managed Fund	870.60	916.50	+4.60	...
Equity Fund	1681.10	1769.60	+17.00	...
Intl Fund	676.20	711.80	-0.60	...
Fixed Interest	588.90	619.90	+1.00	...
Property Fund	492.40	518.40	-0.10	...
Cash Fund	375.90	395.70	+0.30	...
Pacific Basin	380.20	400.30	+2.80	...
N American Fd	299.60	315.40	-0.60	...
Euro Fund	293.40	308.90	-4.60	...
Balanced Fund	170.30	179.30	+1.10	...
Strategic Fund	181.00	190.60	+0.90	...
ROYAL HERITAGE LIFE ASSURANCE				
Peterborough Business Park, Peterborough PE2 6GG. 01733 390000				
Mah Grow (45) 1	814.80	...	...	...
-do- Acc	475.80	500.80	...	...
Op Prop	505.10	531.60	+2.60	...
Op Equity	1083.50	1140.50	+11.40	...
Op High Yield	619.50	652.00	+5.80	...
Op Managed	871.50	917.30	+2.30	...
Op Deposit	405.90	427.25	+0.40	...
Inc Gth	330.40	348.70	+13.60	...
Japan Smlr	244.70	257.50	-2.40	...
Managed Gth	281.60	296.40	+9.70	...
Gilt	83.50	87.80	+0.60	...
British	413.80	435.50	+10.50	...
Global Bond	121.70	128.10	+0.50	...
Global Inc & Gth	171.60	180.60	-9.20	...
Gold Share	85.60	90.10	-4.20	...
High Income	317.50	334.20	+2.40	...
Income	479.50	504.70	+32.50	...
Japan	421.00	443.10	-3.50	...
UK Smlr Cos	379.80	399.70	-5.40	...
Mngd Growth	493.40	519.30	+5.40	...
ROYAL LIFE INSURANCE				
New Hall Place, Liverpool L69 3HS 0151 239 3800				
Royal Shield Fd	1049.10	1110.10	+6.50	...
Royal Life Unit Linked				
Managed Fund	414.80	436.60	+2.30	...
Equity Fund	602.60	634.30	+5.00	...
Property Fund	333.30	350.80	-10.50	...
International	508.00	534.70	-3.50	...
Pacific Basin	263.70	277.50	-0.90	...
United States	296.10	311.60	-1.40	...
Gilt Fund	384.80	405.00	+3.30	...
SAVE & PROSPER				
16-22 Western Road, Romford, Essex RM1 3LB. 01708 766966				
Bal Inv Fund	815.30	862.80	+3.80	2.50
Deposit Fund (2)	386.80	409.40	+0.40	7.09
Gilt Fund	543.70	575.40	+4.80	8.10
Global Equity Fd	251.00	265.70	-1.20	...
Property Fund (48)	116.10	122.90	-0.50	7.08
AG Bond Fund	156.90	165.90	-0.20	...
SCOTTISH AMICABLE				
150 St Vincent Street, Glasgow 0141 248 2323				
Equity	647.10	681.20	+9.30	...
Fixed Interest	387.20	407.60	+2.40	...
Index-Linked	204.10	214.90	+0.90	...
International	486.40	512.10	+1.40	...
Property	304.70	320.80	+0.30	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Cash	237.70	250.30	+0.20	...
Managed	504.30	530.90	+5.00	...
Cap Gteed Bd	125.40	132.00	+1.80	...
SCOTTISH EQUITABLE				
28 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YF 0131 556 9101				
Cash	187.324	197.183	+0.18	...
Index-Linked	169.50	178.50	+0.80	...
Fixed Interest	181.60	191.20	+0.60	...
Mixed	275.60	290.10	+0.20	...
UK Equity	264.70	278.70	+0.90	...
International	271.40	285.80	-1.10	...
American	290.30	305.60	-2.00	...
Japan	229.60	241.80	-0.10	...
European	279.70	294.60	-4.20	...
Pacific	358.10	377.00	+2.30	...
Technology	442.00	465.30	-10.30	...
Frgn Bd/Ccy	245.20	258.20	-0.10	...
SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS				
19 St Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE 0131 225 2211				
Property	224.10	236.00	+0.30	...
UK Equity	391.20	411.80	+1.20	...
American	280.80	295.70	-2.40	...
Pacific	357.30	376.20	+2.90	...
European	510.10	537.00	-3.50	...
International	332.30	349.90	+0.30	...
Fixed Interest	244.40	257.40	+0.30	...
Index Linked	204.60	215.50	+0.20	...
Deposit	201.30	212.00	+0.10	...
Managed	309.30	325.70	+0.70	...
Worldwide	127.90	134.70	-0.80	...
Pen Worldwide	137.20	144.50	-0.90	...
SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE				
109 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN 0141 248 6321				
Flex Fund (35)	1781.20	1836.30	...	...
Safety Fund	248.10	261.20	+0.60	...
Growth Fund	249.40	262.60	+0.40	...
Opportunity Fd	250.60	263.80	+0.40	...
Cash Fund	179.80	189.30	+0.10	...
European Fund	366.30	385.60	-5.90	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	207.50	218.50	+0.30	...
Index-Linked Fd	187.70	197.60	+0.60	...
International Fd	301.00	316.90	-1.90	...
North American	260.30	274.10	-2.90	...
Property Fund	129.30	136.20	-5.50	...
UK Equity	268.90	283.10	+1.20	...
UK Smaller	263.70	277.60	+0.50	...
SCOTTISH PROVIDENT				
6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA 0131 556 9181				
Mixed	290.60	306.00	+0.60	...
Equity	311.70	328.20	-2.00	...
International	283.60	298.70	-0.40	...
Property	233.40	245.70	-1.40	...
Fixed Interest	229.60	241.80	-0.30	...
Index Linked	188.30	198.30	+1.00	...
Cash	192.30	202.50	+0.10	...
Formerly Prolific				
Bal Gwth Mngd	871.60	927.30	+2.60	...
Cash Fund	348.80	366.60	-0.70	...
Property Fund	299.30	315.40	-2.50	...
Equity Fund	973.10	1035.30	-1.10	...
Fxd Interest Fund	487.40	513.60	-1.00	...
International	408.00	434.10	-0.70	...
High Income	798.80	849.30	+7.40	...
Far East	586.00	623.50	+1.70	...
North American	622.10	661.90	-11.20	...
Special Sits	722.30	768.50	+1.40	...
Technology	879.60	935.80	-21.90	...
Extra Income Fd	426.10	453.30	+3.80	...
Gilt Fund	505.10	537.40	+4.30	...
European	157.40	167.50	-1.50	...
Adventurous Mg	242.80	258.20	-0.60	...
Secure Mgd	157.50	166.00	+0.20	...
Equity Inc Dist	125.30	132.10	+0.70	4.45
Managed Dist	115.50	121.60	+0.10	4.00
SCOTTISH WIDOWS				
PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU 0131 655 6000				
Inv Pol 1	1051.10	1051.10	+2.60	...
Inv Pol 2	951.20	1003.40	+2.30	...
Inv Pol 3	907.00	954.80	+1.80	...
Inv Cash	325.80	343.00	+0.50	...
Mixed Fund	492.00	518.00	-0.60	...
Equity Fund	589.70	620.90	+2.50	...
Property Fund	245.40	258.40	+0.10	...
International Fd	536.10	564.50	-5.70	...
Fixed Interest Fd	393.30	414.10	+2.60	...
Indexed Stock Fd	205.90	216.80	+0.40	...
Cash Fund	235.70	248.20	+0.20	...
SKANDIA LIFE				
Skandia House, Portland Terrace, Southampton SO9 7BX 01703 334411				
Managed Acc	412.30	433.90	+4.10	...
Equity Acc	503.60	530.10	+8.00	...
International Acc	357.20	375.90	+2.00	...
Property	232.30	244.50	-0.30	...
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO				
3 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ 0131 225 2552				
Cash	277.10	291.70	+0.20	...
Equity	1114.80	1173.30	+5.00	...
European	182.60	192.30	-2.40	...
Far East	176.70	186.10	+1.00	...
Fixed Interest	416.70	438.70	+0.70	...
Index Linked	218.40	229.90	+0.20	...
International	656.80	691.40	-2.40	...
Managed	767.20	807.60	+1.90	...
Nth American	165.30	174.00	-1.50	...
Property	369.10	388.60	+0.10	...
Pensions				
Cash	435.90	458.90	+0.50	...
Equity	1661.80	1749.30	+12.30	...
European	222.60	233.20	-4.30	...
Far East	142.30	149.80	+1.10	...
Fixed Interest	583.40	614.20	+1.80	...
Index Linked	305.20	321.30	+1.00	...
International	937.40	986.80	-4.70	...
Managed	1106.40	1164.70	+3.20	...
Nth American	209.00	220.10	-2.70	...
Property	510.00	536.90	+0.80	...
Stock Exchange	250.20	263.40	+0.80	...

	Bid	Offer	Wkly +/-	Yld %
SUN ALLIANCE				
St Mark's Court, Horsham, Sussex 01403 232323				
Managed Fund	728.30	766.70	+4.00	...
Equity Fund	966.47	1017.30	+11.30	...
Fixed Interest Fd	428.10	450.70	+1.30	...
Index-Linked Fd	332.40	349.90	+0.60	...
Property Fund	529.10	557.00	+0.70	...
International Fd	707.90	745.20	-4.00	...
N American Fd	283.30	298.30	-7.00	...
Far East Fund	239.20	251.90	+0.50	...
Deposit Fund	308.80	325.10	+0.30	...
International Bd 1	496.60	...	-0.50	...
Worldwide Bond	166.10	174.90	+0.10	...
European	178.20	187.60	-2.70	...
Phoenix Assurance				
Wealth Assured	727.10	765.30	+3.50	...
Ebor Phoenix Eq	515.40	553.50	...	...
Property Growth				
Property Fund 1	612.60	...	+1.00	...
-do- Acc 1	570.20	...	+0.80	...
Agricultural Fd 1	850.70	...	+0.70	...
-do- Acc 1	815.80	...	+0.60	...
Abbey Nat Fd 1	457.30	...	+0.50	...
Abbey Nat Acc 1	481.80	...	+0.60	...
Investment Fd 1	388.70	...	+2.10	...
Investment (A) 1	372.60	...	+2.00	...
Equity 1	1471.80	...	+15.60	...
Equity Acc 1	1349.20	...	+14.90	...
Money Fund 1	494.20	...	+0.50	...
-do- Acc 1	471.60	...	+0.40	...
Actuarial Fd 1	640.00	...	+3.40	...
Gilt-Edged Fd 1	401.20	...	+1.20	...
-do- Acc 1	401.70	...	+1.20	...
Retire Annuity 1	1282.20	...	-0.40	...
Immed Annuity 1	294.00	...	...	...
Bldg Soc Life 1	234.40	...	+0.20	...
SUN LIFE OF CANADA				
Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ Dealing: 01256 841414				
Growth Account	1645.60	...	...	...
Managed Acc	890.70	...	...	...
Equity Account	1295.60	...	...	...
Mngd Fund Acc	410.90	432.50	-2.30	...
Equity Fund Acc	566.80	596.60	-3.90	...
Prop Fund Acc	265.30	279.30	+0.30	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	319.80	336.70	-6.70	...
Money Fund Acc	228.40	240.40	+0.10	...
Indx-Lnk Sct Ac	211.90	223.00	-3.90	...
Pens Pens Acc	2026.70	...	...	...
Pens Mngd Acc	950.80	1000.90	-0.60	...
Pens Guarantee	269.50	283.70	+0.40	...
Pens Equity	372.20	391.80	+1.70	...
Pens Property	310.40	326.70	+0.30	...
Pens Fixed Int	300.60	316.40	-3.20	...
Pens Intl	258.40	272.00	-1.70	...
Pens Money	247.30	260.30	+0.30	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	204.00	214.80	-2.00	...
SUN LIFE UNIT				
St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SL 0117 9426911				
Managed Acc	961.20	1011.70	+3.20	...
Property Acc	320.80	337.70	-2.00	...
Equity Acc	1599.10	1683.30	+12.80	...
Fixed Int Acc	418.40	440.50	+1.30	...
Cash Acc	320.20	337.10	+0.20	...
Amer Equity Acc	432.50	455.30	-3.40	...
Japan Acc	294.90	310.50	+1.90	...
Pacific Acc	378.10	398.00	+4.20	...
Far Eastern Acc	851.50	896.40	+8.00	...
International Acc	630.80	664.00	-0.50	...
Distribution Fund	287.90	303.10	+1.00	3.94
European	201.90	212.60	-2.60	...
Defnd Dist	180.10	189.60	+0.80	...
TSB LIFE LTD				
Charlton Place, Andover, Hants SP10 1RE 01264 345678				
Managed Fund	305.20	322.30	+1.00	...
Property Fund	221.30	233.00	-0.30	...
Fixed Interest Fd	232.00	244.20	+0.60	...
Money Fund	207.30	218.10	+0.20	...
Equity Fund	396.70	417.60	+1.30	...
WINDSOR LIFE				
Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire 01952 292929				
Managed Bond	749.00	788.20	+14.80	...
Money Fund	328.30	345.60	+0.30	...
Equity Fund	666.30	701.30	+7.30	...
Fixed Interest	380.60	395.70	-4.00	...
Property Fund	359.10	378.00	...	...
Gresham Bramlington				
American & Genl	644.80	678.50	-20.50	...
Income	802.50	843.80	-0.50	...
International Gth	671.20	707.30	-9.00	...
Capital Fund	673.10	709.30	+0.80	...
Recovery Fund	661.20	696.20	-5.40	...
Japan & General	271.90	286.50	-0.50	...
Formerly Aitma				
Life Funds				
Squirrel	18.62	19.69	+0.02	...
Bear	20.91	22.01	+0.24	...
Owl	22.58	23.77	+0.04	...
Bull	19.22	20.23	+0.14	...
Stag	20.05	21.11	+0.06	...
Gilt Edged	19.47	20.49	+0.11	...
Deposit	16.27	17.13	+0.01	...
Pensions				
Squirrel	25.64	26.99	+0.03	...
Bear	28.31	29.85	+0.27	...
Owl	31.09	32.72	+0.31	...
Bull	25.09	26.41	+0.12	...
Stag	25.62	26.97	-0.06	...
Gilt Edged	24.79	26.09	+0.16	...
Deposit	21.27	22.39	+0.06	...
Pre 1982 Series				
3-Way Fund	606.01	...	+4.32	...
1982 Series				
UK Equity	374.81	394.38	+5.50	...
N Amer Equity	312.07	328.49	-4.30	...
Far East Equity	373.30	392.94	+1.80	...
Fixed	307.80	324.11	+1.97	...
Cash Deposit	211.74	222.88	+0.19	...
Property	152.49	160.52	-0.27	...
Special Opp	376.97	396.81	-0.03	...
Managed	330.42	347.81	+2.35	...
Index-Linked Fd	197.80	208.21	-0.69	...

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هكذا من الاصل

WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Client-unfriendly face of societies

From Mr S. Pawson

Editor, Due to the speculation concerning the merger *mania* of various building societies, I *decided, quite selfishly,* to open an account with those targeted in the expectation of a profit at some future date.

Easier, much easier said than done. I was astounded at the impertinence of some of the questions asked of me in order to prove my identity. I have no quarrel with the necessity of providing my name, address and phone *number and I* accept the advisability of providing some proof of identity. I understand that this is now a legal requirement; would that counter staff could quote the relevant piece of legislation to convince *me that it really is.*

It is this aspect of proving that you are actually who you are that common sense flees the branch and head office overkill comes into play. Some societies are very restrictive as to what documentation they will accept; one would only consider a range of four and I had to point out that men don't *have marriage lines so this* reduced it to three.

I offered my current council tax bill, credit card, cheque guarantee card, library card, church membership card, National Coach discount card (this one has a photo!), retired staff membership card and, as a *last resort, my B&Q over-*60's club card. All were *spurned.*

I won't offer my driving licence or passport as these contain information confidential to myself and quite irrelevant to the building society. Why does a building society want to know how old you are, what your occupation is, nationality *and* gender are, I wonder. Perhaps to inundate *their depositors* with unwanted and unwelcome mailshots offering all manner of financial services.

Given my experience, I wonder how some societies manage to attract any investors at all given the *interrogative* procedures in force. I am *neither docile nor accustomed* to unquestioning compliance in regard to form filling, especially where their style and content reflect only the egotism of the form designer rather than eliciting information genuinely required to deposit a few quid in a savings account.

Those societies that follow *such bureaucratic procedures* are probably the least efficient and therefore make the best targets for those whose systems are more depositor friendly.

Yours truly,
S. PAWSON,
8 Denmead Close,
Eaton Vale, Norwich,
Norfolk.

Building Society
GED

"And when did you last see your Father?"

Clearing banks on a fee too far

From Mr Justin Seabrook

Sir, It is well known that British banks make money not through prudent lending and efficient service but through excessive bank charges and abuse of their preferential creditor status. And yet, the *latest fee demanded by my* bank still managed to shake me. I am moving north because of a job change and wish to rent a local property initially: this *means letting my* London flat, of which my bank *is the mortgagee. Mortgagee* permission for letting was described as a formality when I phoned to ask for a consent request form. I was therefore surprised to learn from the small print on the form that it *incurs a £75 administration* fee. The bank was unable to impart what administration effort is incurred — other, presumably, than putting the completed form in my file.

The charge is automatically added to the outstanding mortgage amount and, paid back over 25 years, amounts to about £500. Unbelievably, the *charge is applied annually* and could therefore add thousands to the repayable total. It is likely that my bank know the fee is extortionate and this is the reason they dare not ask for it "up front".

Yours faithfully,
JUSTIN SEABROOK,
34 Kilner House,
Clayton Street, SE1.

CAPITAL GAINS TAX

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in August 1995

Month purchased	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988
January	-	0.815	0.726	0.644	0.557	0.499	0.451
February	-	0.807	0.719	0.630	0.552	0.493	0.446
March	0.887	0.803	0.714	0.615	0.550	0.490	0.440
April	0.850	0.779	0.691	0.582	0.535	0.472	0.417
May	0.837	0.771	0.685	0.574	0.532	0.471	0.411
June	0.831	0.767	0.680	0.571	0.533	0.471	0.406
July	0.831	0.757	0.682	0.574	0.537	0.472	0.405
August	0.830	0.750	0.667	0.570	0.532	0.468	0.389
September	0.831	0.742	0.663	0.571	0.525	0.464	0.383
October	0.822	0.736	0.653	0.568	0.523	0.457	0.369
November	0.813	0.730	0.648	0.563	0.510	0.450	0.363
December	0.817	0.725	0.650	0.561	0.505	0.451	0.359
	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
January	0.350	0.254	0.151	0.105	0.087	0.061	0.027
February	0.341	0.247	0.145	0.100	0.080	0.055	0.020
March	0.335	0.235	0.141	0.097	0.076	0.052	0.016
April	0.311	0.198	0.126	0.080	0.066	0.040	0.006
May	0.303	0.188	0.123	0.076	0.062	0.036	0.002
June	0.299	0.183	0.118	0.076	0.063	0.036	0.001
July	0.298	0.182	0.120	0.080	0.065	0.041	0.005
August	0.294	0.170	0.118	0.079	0.061	0.036	-
September	0.286	0.159	0.114	0.075	0.056	0.034	-
October	0.276	0.150	0.110	0.071	0.057	0.032	-
November	0.265	0.153	0.105	0.073	0.059	0.032	-
December	0.262	0.154	0.105	0.077	0.055	0.027	-

The RI month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1985 (April 1, 1985 for companies) is the month in which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that month.

Jobless, penniless — good reasons to rent

From Mr David Shamash

Sir, The correspondents who have written to you to argue *the relative merits* of letting a house rather than selling and investing the money are surely missing the main point.

It is probable that most people who move away and rent out their house or flat do so because they have lost their job, have found another one *elsewhere, need to live some*where else, but cannot afford to sell as their mortgage exceeds the likely sale proceeds. If they sold, they would be asked by *their mortgagee to* make up the difference and they *simply do not have the* money. At least by renting they can go to live elsewhere while keeping their bank or building society at bay.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID SHAMASH,
34 Floral Street,
WC2.

Controversy over queues in Coventry

From Mrs C. M. Payne

Sir, I agree with Anne Ashworth's comment (September 23) wholeheartedly. I have written to Coventry *Building Society to express my* utter amazement at their incredibly arrogant decision. *It* has obviously not occurred to anyone that the reason for the long queues is that the society is one of the most popular in the Midlands. I trust other customers who feel as I do will inundate the society with letters of complaint and join me at the annual meeting and *voice their displeasure.*

Yours faithfully,
CAROLE M PAYNE,
396 Nuneaton Road,
Bulkington,
Nuneaton,
Warwickshire.

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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
AIB UNIT TRUST MANAGERS LTD				
01895 259 783				
Grofund Amer	185.30	196.10	- 1.30	0.18
Grofund Equity	262.30	279.00	+ 3.90	2.11
Grofund Euro	227.90	241.20	- 0.80	1.13
Grofund Expt Bal	122.70	127.20	...	1.02
Grofund Gilt	73.79	76.07	+ 0.39	5.35
Grofund Japan	166.40	176.10	+ 2.10	...
AXA EQUITY & LAW UNIT TST MGRS				
01203 553 231				
General Acc	601.10	639.50†	+ 5.20	2.66
General Inc	516.40	549.40†	+ 4.50	2.66
UK Growth Acc	406.60	432.60	+ 3.80	2.82
UK Growth Inc	274.50	292.10	+ 2.60	2.82
Higher Inc Acc	752.00	800.10	+ 10.40	3.99
Higher Inc Inc	427.30	454.60	+ 6.00	3.99
Gilts/Fxd Int Acc	197.00	209.10†	+ 0.50	5.78
Gilts/Fxd Int Inc	90.75	95.85†	+ 0.22	5.78
Nth America	317.60	337.90	- 10.80	...
Europe	304.90	324.40†	- 2.30	1.05
Brit Excell	81.35	86.56	- 0.32	2.92
Brit Frndmts Acc	110.20	117.30†	+ 1.30	4.71
Brit Frndmts Inc	77.20	82.15†	+ 0.89	4.71
Global Opps	93.95	99.95	- 1.15	0.20
Balanced Acc	58.60	62.35	+ 0.15	2.94
Balanced Inc	56.08	59.67	- 0.39	2.94
Japan Acc	45.03	47.91†	+ 0.42	...
Pac Basin Acc	374.00	397.90	+ 3.00	0.85
ABBEY UNIT TST MGRS				
0345 717 373				
High Income				
Gilts & Fixed Int	127.70	135.50†	+ 0.70	7.38
High Inc Equity	175.10	187.30†	- 0.40	4.29
Worldwide Bond	282.50	299.60	- 0.30	4.67
Capital Growth				
American Growth	319.40	341.60	- 7.30	0.54
Asian Pacific	318.50	338.80	+ 3.70	...
Assets & Earnings	295.50	314.40	+ 4.50	2.70
Comdty & Energy	104.70	112.00	- 3.60	0.12
Euro Capital Inc	144.60	154.90	- 1.90	0.63
-do- Accum	155.30	166.00	- 2.20	0.62
General	262.70	279.50	+ 3.30	2.98
Japan	117.00	125.10	- 0.30	...
Mastertrust	149.50	159.90	- 1.00	1.51
UC Emerging Cos	163.50	173.90	- 8.40	...
Income & Growth	432.10	459.70	+ 7.40	2.96
Ethical	72.75	77.39	+ 0.59	2.61
International	121.40	129.20	- 0.10	0.76
Dividend & Growth	65.62	69.81	+ 0.97	4.03
Global Grth & Sec	69.56	74.26	+ 0.10	2.85
ABERFORTH UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 220 0733				
UK Small Cos	1963.00	2039.00	+ 4.00	
ABTRUST UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0800 833 580				
Amer Inc & Growth	50.46	52.40†	- 0.86	0.59
Cash	50.23	50.23†	+ 0.05	5.82
Emerging Mkts	68.29	72.38	- 0.24	0.05
European	126.90	132.70	- 2.00	
Exempt	1018.80	1080.40†	- 5.10	1.71
Extra Income #	49.92	52.33†	- 0.08	8.90
Far East Emg Eco	119.70	125.40	- 0.70	0.50
Fixed Interest #	23.34	24.50	+ 0.14	9.59

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
CAZENOVE UNIT TRUST MGMT LTD				
0171 606 0708				
Cazenove Portfolio	90.83	96.98	+ 0.66	2.65
American Portfolio	104.22	110.78	- 0.54	1.00
European Portfolio	112.78	120.04†	- 1.16	0.56
High Income	50.72	50.85	+ 0.45	8.00
Japanese Portfolio	65.02	69.04†	+ 0.94	...
Pacific Portfolio	142.69	153.44	+ 0.70	1.46
UK Inc & Growth	83.39	89.29†	+ 0.51	3.06
Utility & Bond	58.91	59.58	+ 0.76	6.47
CENT BD OF FIN OF CHURCH OF ENG				
0171 588 1815				
Inv Fund	709.47	730.19	+ 3.46	4.42
Fxd In Sec	152.85	153.47	- 0.26	8.38
COIF CHARITY FUNDS				
0171 588 1815				
Investment Inc	689.48	710.04	+ 8.34	4.49
Investment Acc	£30.82	£31.28	+ 38.43	...
Fixed Int Inc	123.87	124.37	- 2.11	9.25
Fixed Int Acc	208.16	208.98	+ 1.30	...
CHARTERED ASSET MGMT LTD				
0171 837 7667				
Intl Growth	118.98	130.41	- 0.36	.
UK Income	111.61	121.33	+ 0.85	6.23
CITY FINANCIAL UT MGRS LTD				
0171 407 5986				
Bedlam Intl	65.12	69.85†	+ 0.11	2.70
Buck Bio-Tech	37.17	40.92	- 1.71	...
Accm Ethical Tst	158.18	166.08	- 0.35	0.75
City Fin Assets	73.54	77.22†	- 1.06	1.78
City Fin America	95.04	99.80	- 2.92	...
City Fin Intl	81.34	85.41	- 0.48	1.37
City Fin Japan	145.95	153.26	- 1.44	.
Friars Hse Cap	282.97	305.95	- 2.98	2.39
Friars Hse Inc	198.08	212.67	- 0.81	3.96
Buckley Yield Grth	133.72	141.74†	- 0.48	.
Falmth Cap Gth	141.32	150.65	+ 0.15	.
Famamgt Intl	151.49	162.15	- 1.25	.
J Stn Inc/Gth Inc	55.47	58.25	- 0.22	2.91
CITY OF LONDON UNIT TST MGRS LTD				
0171 711 0771 Admin: 01277 227 300				
Emerging Markets	56.15	59.58		...
CLERICAL MEDICAL UT MGRS LTD				
0800 373 393				
American Gwth	71.54	76.51	- 2.72	...
Alloc Mngd Gwth	39.39	42.65	- 0.22	0.73
Dragon Growth	67.28	71.85	+ 0.44	0.91
Equity High Inc	87.93	93.28†	+ 1.15	4.91
-do- Accum	120.83	129.44	+ 1.60	4.91
Extra Income Inc	25.78	27.13†	- 0.39	7.65
Extra Income Acc	26.81	28.21	+ 0.08	7.65
European Gwth	54.35	57.82	- 0.87	1.24
Evergreen	27.97	29.91	+ 0.15	.
General Equity	91.71	97.31	+ 0.86	2.96
Japan Growth	49.77	53.23	- 0.37	...
Pelligon Gwth	55.79	59.23	+ 0.46	2.84
Ped Sm Cos Inc	32.84	34.94	+ 0.03	1.62
-do- Accum	34.37	36.58	+ 0.03	1.62
Retirement Inc #	26.88	28.57	+ 0.24	5.56
Special Sits	41.22	43.85	+ 0.25	2.16
UK & Overseas	52.91	56.29	- 0.77	1.39
COLONIAL UT MGRS LTD				

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Income	179.87	191.34	+ 2.74	3.19
UK Growth	68.30	72.85	+ 0.85	0.48
International	81.94	87.17	- 0.35	0.07
Ecology	90.58	96.38†	- 0.05	1.12
European	138.93	147.79	- 1.71	..
Far Eastern	300.10	319.20	+ 0.40	...
KLEINWORT BENSON UNIT TRUSTS				
Dealers: 0171 859 7354				
Income Trusts				
Bond Income	97.56	100.90	+ 0.60	7.62
Gilt Yield	114.60	121.80†	+ 0.10	7.02

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
UK Growth	406.40	432.34†	+ 1.96	2.69
-do- Accum	544.28	579.02	+ 0.84	2.69
MAW JOINT INVESTORS LTD				
01820 625867				
Balanced Fd #	1408.70	1433.60	- 4.60	3.09
Income #	1016.60	1037.80	- 0.20	4.20
MALDON UNIT TRUST MGRS LTD				
0131 222 4242				
Maldon General	151.60	155.50	...	3.90

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	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
Global Income	218.40	230.20	- 3.30	3.76
High Yield	142.70	151.80†	- 1.80	5.89
-do- Accum	450.30	479.00†	+ 2.80	5.89
Smllr Cos Div	56.22	59.81	- 1.35	2.82
Capital Growth Trusts				
Amer Smllr Cos	110.30	117.30	- 3.40	
Asian Growth	324.90	345.80†	+ 1.90	0.24
-do- Accum	381.80	406.20†	+ 3.10	0.24
North American	89.34	95.04	- 1.31	0.25
European Special	120.50	128.20	- 2.90	0.19
European	159.20	169.40	- 3.10	0.46
-do- Accum	209.60	223.20	- 4.20	0.46
Global Eqty Inc	109.60	116.30†	+ 0.10	2.21
Japan	412.50	438.80	+ 5.60	.
Japanese Special	232.30	247.10	+ 4.90	...

	Sell	Buy	Wkly +/-	Yld %
MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD				
01244 688 066				
M & S Inv Ptflo	163.70	172.30	+ 0.30	2.10
-do- Accum	190.40	200.40	+ 0.20	2.10
UK Sel Ptflo	143.60	151.10	+ 0.80	2.44
-do- Accum	168.92	177.80	+ 1.00	2.44
MARLBOROUGH FUND MGRS LTD				
01204 364 842				
Managed Tst	69.34	73.77†	+ 0.83	3.67
MARTIN CURRIE UNIT TRUSTS LTD				
0131 479 4646				
Intl Income	76.11	80.80†	+ 0.71	4.14
European	89.53	95.04	- 1.29	0.96

Disappointing end to the week

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

BANKS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
568	413	Abbey Nat	554	..	4.4	11.1
320	250	Allied Irish	316	- 2	4.6	9.2
289	198	Aus New Z	270	- 3	5.2	8.1
3875	2531¼	Bank America	3875	+ 50		
258½	197½	Bank Scotland	239	- 2	3.3	10.4
778	557½	Barclays	749	- 2	3.8	10.2
408	288	Bk of Ireland	405	- 2	4.0	8.1
525	418	Cater Allen	483	- 5	7.5	7.3
4612½	2450	Citicorp	4608	- 12½	..	..
349½	216½	Chase Manh	318	..	8.5	..
£162¼	£129¼	Commerzbk	£142¼	- 87¼	3.7	..
1375	983½	Dai Ichi Kan Y	1187½	+ 37½	0.4	..
3271¼	2775	Deutsche Bk	3059½	+ 33½	2.4	
881¼	612½	Espirito Santo	896½	- 16½	11.8	..
1611	1192¼	Fuji Bank Y	1318¼	+ ¼	0.4	..
490	395	Gerrard Nat	448	- 1	6.3	14.5
253	180	Hambros	208	+ 1	4.5	52.4
958	589	HSBC†	925	- 7	3.8	12.0
938½	578	HSBC HK†	905	- 8	3.9	11.8
332	228	Irish Perm†	319	+ 2	3.8	7.4
463	353	Joseph (L)	443	+ 5	5.0	24.7
145	85	King Shaxson	137	..	8.2	10.8
718	539	Lloyds†	705	..	4.8	10.8
592	479	Nat Aust Bk†	555	- 3	6.9	8.5
665	454	Nat West†	621	- 6	4.8	9.9
3000	2150	Ottoman Bank	2500	..	5.3	3.5
87	45	Rea Brothers	45	..	2.7	18.4
476	373½	Ryl Bk Scot	464	+ 4	3.9	11.2
1478	905¼	Schroders†	1338	+ 3	1.3	19.1
1190	823¼	Schroders N/V†	1119	..	1.6	15.9
110	81	Singer & Friedl	108	..	4.3	11.2
481	245	Stand Chart†	452½	- 1½	2.5	11.4
279½	217	TSB	274	+ 1	4.4	11.5
121	70	Union	112	..	9.3	..
£129½	9043¼	Wells Fargo	£124¼	- 81¼	2.3	..
269½	201	Westpac	257½	+ 1¼	2.2	..
395	200	Wintrust	285	..	4.8	16.9

BREWERIES

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
231	143	Ascot Hldgs	219	..		0.4
689	487	Bass	592	- 3	4.1	15.7
394	239	Boddington†	389½	+ 31½	2.9	20.0
192	137	Burtonwood Bw	180	+ 1	3.7	16.7
185	137	Eldridge P 'A'	175		3.6	21.2
61	51	Foxtons Brewing	58	- 1	5.1	..
433	335	Fuller Sm 'A'	423		2.5	18.1
527	402	Greenalls Gp	462	- 26½	3.7	13.4
658	468	Greene King	637	+ 4	2.7	17.1
284	240	Hardy Hanson	265	+ 2	4.6	12.4
160	150	Hawdon	155		4.5	10.9
3425	3048	Holt JH	3148		2.1	15.9
347	219	Mansfield	317	- 1	2.1	16.7

DISTRIBUTORS

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
113½	88½	ABI Lea	100	..	5.2	11.5
595	505	Adam & Harvey	568		4.0	8.5
21	14	Alexanders	15		5.6	34.7
119	99	Appleyard	100		6.8	11.7
4⅛	3¼	Ass Br Eng	3½	..	7.1	28.5
623	518	BSS Group	600		4.1	17.3
40	28	Bandl	35	- 1	..	..
24½	16	Beaving Power	18	..	8.9	8.9
28	18	Bogod 'A'	25		3.5	8.9
482	345	Boustead	482	+ 9	3.5	18.5
21	10½	Bridgend Gp	17		1.5	
96	78	Brit Fittings	91	..	4.5	13.8
270	215	Caltex	253	...	5.7	18.0
88	54	Central Mtr	85	..	5.2	17.9
60	35	Cook (DC)	58½	...	8.2	
320½	220	Cowie	317		3.7	13.7
155	125	Dag Motors†	151		6.8	12.5
598	538	Dewhurst El	548		1.8	11.9
501	408	Diploma	420	+ 2	4.1	14.1
330	236	Electrocomponents	330		2.1	24.1
247	153	Eurodis Elec	244	+ 2	2.1	16.9
235	147	Eurodollar	151	..	6.5	9.1
120	87	European Mtr	106	..	5.9	9.1
448	384	Foxtis Halcourt	426	..	4.5	13.2
695	512	Farnell Elect	621	..	1.7	21.7
72	48	Fife Indmar†	58	...	6.2	10.8
24½	15	Gardiner	18½		5.5	8.1
29½	16	Glenchewton	26		1.4	
108	61	Gwenast	87	..	3.2	14.5
178	148	Harris (Philip)	171	..	5.2	11.9
181	142	Headlam	180	+ 1	2.9	15.7
554	258	Hedlyst	529	..	2.4	19.7
187	81	Holders Tech	182	..	7.4	19.4
145	88	ISA Intl	141	..	1.4	15.3
430	274	Inchcape	326	+ 3½	5.9	20.9
68	53	Jacks (Wm)†	61	..	1.5	11.6
187	142	Kwik-Fit	184	..	3.1	15.7
358½	284½	Lex Service	347	- 2	5.2	18.5
195	152	Lookers	158	..	6.0	8.7
22	14	Malaya Grp	14	- ½	4.3	18.9
8½	5	Meadowcroft	7	+ ¼	0.9	18.1
71	42	Moorestone	42½	..		4.8
494	330	Hestair	475	...	1.3	16.3
203	78	Northamber	201	..	1.1	16.1
155	138	PCT†	139	..	6.9	8.9
283	225	Pendragon†	282	- 1	3.7	14.7
183	123	Perry Gp	163	..	8.0	12.1
146	126	Quicks Group†	145	..	5.0	12.4
183	180	REA	161	..	3.1	19.2
3½	2½	Reece	3			
73	48	Renown	48	- 5	3.3	9.8
6½	2½	Ross Gp	3½			
83½	37½	SEP Intl	65	- ½	2.4	31.9
17½	18	Sutton	14	..		8.0
74½	38	TLSV	69	..	3.4	11.7
268	226	Time Products	260	..	4.3	18.3
275	151	Vardy (Reg)	273		5.6	17.3

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
19½	11½	Locker (T) A	17		2.9	...
45	29	ML Hldgs	38	..	4.0	12.9
39	19	MS Intl	33	- 1	1.9	
189	137	Mang Bronze	147		3.0	15.9
476	378	McKechnie	454	- 11½	4.1	23.4
86	61	Meggitt	85	+ 5	5.6	22.1
126	91½	Metalrax	117	...	4.8	19.7
138	128	Molins	133		2.9	27.9
820	487	Molins	820	..	2.1	14.3
405	293	Morgan Crble	390		4.3	17.1
316	178	Morris Ashby	300	+ 5	2.7	16.9
52	32	Neepsend†	51		3.7	13.0
70	45	Newman	52	- 2	4.1	10.6
45	31	Newmark (L)†	31			
41½	13	Oliver	18½		4.8	
380	233	Powerscreen	379	+ 7	2.7	15.4
15½	4½	Prospect Inds	5½	..	15.7	
73	65	Radiant Metal	65	...	...	...
64	41	Ransomes	55			
86	61	Record	68		6.7	13.4
445	265	Renishaw	445	+ 5	2.0	
291	180	Renold	278		2.0	20.4
58	41	Richard (Leics)	41		6.9	14.2
99	66	Richardson Westg	90		4.9	14.8
194½	149	Rolls-Royce	175	- 3½	3.6	24.8
189	158½	Rotork†	170	- 1	3.7	16.2
183	143	Rubicon†	180		3.7	17.3
114	87	Senior Engg	103	- 2	4.2	36.4
327	263	Servomex	325		2.8	21.9
127	49	Sidlaw	122	- 4	1.5	21.1
744	498	Siebe	733	+ 9	2.1	20.3
99	67	Simon Eng	91			
158	79	Six Hundred	155½		1.6	15.3
1471½	1034½	SKF 'B'	1393½	- 12½	2.7	14.0
605	423	Smiths Ind	590	- 5	2.9	20.6
612	431	Spirax-Sarco†	595		2.5	18.7
284	227	Sterling Ind	263		3.9	16.3
454½	328	TI†	434	- 6	3.5	20.3
100	92	Tinsley (E)	94		7.5	13.0
181	51	TransTec	91	- 3	1.9	
384	127	Triplex Lloyd	168½	..	5.2	16.8
18	14	Utd Inds▼	18	...	2.6	14.3
2166	1358	VSEL	2145	...	2.4	
15½	11½	Vercon	13	...		
262	162	Vickers†	254	- 1	2.7	20.4
14½	8½	Vitesse Gp	14			
729	505	Volex	726		1.6	18.5
988	732	Vosper Thorny	925	...	2.8	17.6
516	444	Wagon Ind	506		4.8	15.4
293	222	Weir†	282	...	3.4	22.1
58½	36	Wellman	58	+ ½	5.4	11.0
503	390	Whessoe	462		2.1	14.8
11½	8½	Whitworth	9	- ¼	3.8	14.0

ENGINEERING, VEHICLES

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
38	23	AAF Inds	27	+ 1		
294	153	Airflow Stream	290		3.0	10.8
48½	41	Armour	45½		5.6	
528	440	Assoc Rubber	528	- 2	4.1	18.7
291	181	BBA†	290		2.2	
72½	49½	BSG	66½	...	6.1	13.9
13	3½	Beeson Group	4¼		3.5	
340	285	Bodycote	315		2.5	17.3
24	17	Boustead	17		7.4	
14	10	Caverdale	12		2.9	8.0
357	290	ERF	292		1.9	17.2
509	370	First Techt	494		1.8	18.7
829½	543	GKN†	806	- 4	3.5	16.5

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
169	111	Baldwin†	146	- 4	3.6	11.7
235	197	Bass & Waltr	217	- 2	5.2	11.5
260	202	Bluebird Toys	257	+ 1	4.1	8.7
455	335	Boosey Hawkes	455	+ 5	1.7	25.6
5½	1½	Brent Walker	1½			
46	33	Brondesr	41	- 1	5.9	13.9
26½	5½	Castel Plc	7½	+ ¼	6.7	
303	248	Chrysalis	303			
97	70½	City Centre Restt	93½	+ ½	2.7	18.1
447	305	Compass Gp	441	- 4	2.0	22.9
268	210	Eurocamp	254	- 1	5.7	11.0
258	118	Euro Disney	216	- 1		
170	93	Euro Leisure	168	+ 1		

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
142	118	Inv Cap	137½		4.7	..
109	78	Inv Biotech	104		..	
39	20	Inv Wts	29	- 1		
99	74	INVESCO Asia	93½	+ ¼		
72	51	INVESCO Blue	62	..	16.9	
128	88	INVESCO Eng Inl	126		0.8	
149	122	INVESCO Korea	144	+ 1		
61	50	INVESCO Tokyo	51½	- ½		
96	82	J Fry 2nd Ut	91		9.1	...
94	81	J Fry Euro Ut	86	- 1	6.4	..
224	174	JF Fledg Jap	211	- ½		
123	89	Jupiter Intl Gm	122	..	3.5	
249	194	Kiwort Chrl	240		2.8	

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1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
121	96½	Klnwt E Mkt	115			
129	110	Klnwt Eng	125			
84½	73	Klnwt Euro Prvt	80		0.3	
27½	21½	Klnwt Euro Wts	21¼			
91	74	Klnwt H Inc	86		12.5	
266	213	Klnwt O'seas†	258½		1.7	
140	111	Klnwt Smlr†	138		2.2	
577¼	427¼	Korea—Eurot	577¼	+ 16½	0.1	
125½	71	Latin American	97½	+ ¼		
922	718	Law Debenture	906	+ 6	2.9	
106	86	Lazard H Inc	87		9.2	
102	77	Lloyds Sm Cap	100			

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
450	358	Fairline Boats	359		5.9	14.5
124	65	First Choice*	70	+ 1	7.2	13.0
346	262	First Leisure†	323		2.8	19.2
276	224½	Forte	242	- 2	3.9	22.2
175	133	Friendly Hotels	143		5.1	16.5
663	476	Granada	651	- 1	2.0	17.5
166	109	Groupe Chez Gel	159	+ 3	1.9	
38	16	Hi-Tec Sports	28		5.7	
158	96	Hornby	147		4.3	12.6
225½	134	Jarvis Hotel	219		3.3	20.0
35½	14½	Kunick	21¼		4.4	25.1
443	264	London Clubs	430	+ 14	3.9	14.5
187½	159	Lndbroke†	169	+ 1½	4.5	51.0

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
138½	127	M&G Rec Pacific	137	- 1	3.0	
89½	73	M&G Rec Zero Div	89			
122	100	M Currie Euro	117	- 1	0.4	
152	118	M Currie Pac	139	...	0.1	
215	182	Majedie	211		3.1	
57	42	Malcolm	44			
287	241	Merchants	284	+ 2	5.2	
92	79½	Mercury Euro Pv	86½		2.0	
32	23½	Mercury Eur Wt	25¼			
99	78	Mercury World	93½	- ¼	0.9	
31	14½	Mercury Wld Wts	17½			
577	482	Monks Inv Tst	563	- 2	1.7	...
159	125	Morg Gren Inc	154		4.1	...
58	40½	Morg Wts	55			
86	48	Morg Lat Amer	65½	+ 1		
46	20	Morg Wts	26½			
130	104	Murray Em	122	..	2.2	
34	23	Murray Em Wts	25			

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
80	63	Tov Demerc	79		4.1	11.6
236	161	VCI†	235		2.2	16.7
155	136	Vardon	132½	..	1.4	13.8
660	216	Wembley	313	+ 16		
135	96	Zetters Gp	124		10.1	

MEDIA

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
465	335	Abbott Mead†	459	..	2.2	27.2
313	273	Adscene†	274		3.8	15.2
38½	22	Aegis Gp	36½	+ ¼		14.6
7½	1½	Allied Radio	3½			
13	9	BBB Design	10			
260	156	Barbour Index	257	- 3	4.4	31.7
10½	4½	Brindale	9	+ ¼		

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
45	25	Gest Pacific	31		7.9	
115	53	Seafield	97			45.6
783½	587	Shell†	757	- 6	4.8	16.8
4229½	2234½	Total	2740½	- 43½	4.0	13.7
14½	8½	Ulster Grp	14			
325	221	Woodside	296	- 1	1.3	
58	33	XCL	40			

OTHER FINANCIAL

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
101	75	BWD	93		5.5	16.1
154	125	Baltic Prst	150		2.7	8.2
75	44	Berry Birch Nbl	60		6.5	14.2
225	149	Brown Pn	216	- 1		

BRITISH FUNDS

1995 High	Low	Stock	Price £	+/-	Int yld %	Grs red yld
SHORTS (under 5 years)						
104¼	100⅛	Treas 12¾% 1995	100⅜	- ⅛	12.67	6.62
105⅝	102⅛	Treas 14% 1996	102⅛		13.71	6.31
109⅝	104⅛	Treas 15¼% 1996	104⅛xd		14.59	6.39
107¼	103⅛	Exch 13¼% 1996	103⅜	- ⅛	12.75	6.52
104⅛	103⅛	Conv 10% 1996	103⅜		9.65	6.47
109⅛	97⅝	Treas 7% 1997	100⅝		6.96	6.70
109⅛	107⅛	Treas 13¼% 1997	108¼	- ⅛	12.25	6.54
105⅛	104⅛	Exch 10½% 1997	105	- ⅛	10.00	6.59
103⅛	100⅛	Treas 8¾% 1997	103⅛	- ⅛	8.45	6.75
117⅛	114⅛	Exch 15% 1997	115⅛xd	- ⅛	13.00	6.81
107⅛	102⅛	Exch 9¾% 1998	106⅛	- ⅛	9.27	6.87
101⅛	96⅛	Treas 7¼% 1998	100⅛	- ⅛	7.21	6.97
99⅛	94⅛	Treas 6¾% 1995-98	99⅛xd	- ⅛	6.80	7.07
117⅛	114⅛	Treas 14% 1998-01	116⅛	- ⅛	12.06	7.08
124⅛	120⅛	Treas 15½% 1998	122	- ⅛	12.72	7.13
114⅛	108⅛	Exch 12% 1998	113⅛	- ⅛	10.62	7.20
107⅛	100⅛	Treas 9½% 1999	106⅛	- ⅛	8.93	7.21
116⅛	111⅛	Exch 12¼% 1999	114⅛	- ⅛	10.66	7.28
110⅛	105⅛	Treas 10½% 1999	109⅛	- ⅛	9.56	7.30
98⅛	88⅛	Treas 6% 1999	95⅛	- ⅛	6.28	7.34
116⅛	105⅛	Conv 10¼% 1999	109⅛	- ⅛	9.34	7.42
MEDIUMS (5 to 15 years)						
106⅛	100⅛	Conv 9% 2000	105⅛	- ⅛	8.54	7.43
103⅛	96⅛	Treas 8% 2000	102⅛	- ⅛	7.84	7.48
123⅛	117	Treas 13% 2000	121⅛	- ⅛	10.70	7.52
111⅛	104⅛	Treas 10% 2001	110⅛	- ⅛	9.08	7.63
97⅛	90⅛	Treas 7% 2001	96⅛	- ⅛	7.24	7.69
111⅛	103⅛	Treas 9¾% 2002	110	- ⅛	8.86	7.82
102⅛	94⅛	Treas 8% 2003	100⅛	- ⅛	7.95	7.83
119⅛	107⅛	Treas 10% 2003	112	- ⅛	8.33	7.92
118	118⅛	Treas 11½% 2001-04	116⅛	- ⅛	9.90	7.79
80⅛	70½	Fund 3½% 1999-04	79⅛		4.43	6.72
111⅛	103⅛	Conv 9½% 2004	108⅛xd	- ⅛	8.73	8.02
93⅛	85⅛	Treas 6¾% 2004	91½	- ⅛	7.38	8.06
105⅛	97⅛	Treas 6¾% 2005	102⅛	- ⅛	8.26	8.06
111⅛	103⅛	Conv 9½% 2005	109⅛xd	- ⅛	8.73	8.09
128⅛	119⅛	Treas 12½% 2003-05	126⅛	- ⅛	9.92	8.05
99⅛	92⅛	Treas 7¾% 2006	97⅛		8.01	8.12
101⅛	93⅛	Treas 8% 2002-06	99⅛		8.03	8.10
125⅛	113⅛	Treas 11¾% 2003-07	120⅛	- ⅛	9.77	8.00
106⅛	97⅛	Treas 8½% 2007	103⅛	- ⅛	8.25	8.14
135⅛	126⅛	Treas 13½% 2004-08	132⅛	- ⅛	10.16	8.05
110⅛	101⅛	Treas 9% 2008	106⅛xd	- ⅛	8.45	8.16
102⅛	94	Treas 8% 2009	98⅛		8.12	8.19
LONGS (over 15 years)						
86⅛	79⅛	Treas 6¼% 2010	82⅛	- ⅛	7.55	8.24
111⅛	101⅛	Conv 9% 2011	106⅛	- ⅛	8.44	8.23
111⅛	102⅛	Treas 9% 2012	107⅛	- ⅛	8.43	8.23
80⅛	72⅛	Treas 5½% 2008-12	77⅛	- ⅛	7.06	7.90
102⅛	93⅛	Treas 8% 2013	97⅛	- ⅛	8.20	8.24
99⅛	91⅛	Treas 7¾% 2012-15	94⅛	- ⅛	8.18	8.27
110⅛	100⅛	Treas 8¾% 2017	104⅛	- ⅛	8.36	8.27
135⅛	127⅛	Exch 12% 2013-17	134⅛	- ⅛	8.95	8.31
UNDATED						
45⅛	40⅛	War Ln 3½%	41⅛	- ⅛	8.35	
31⅛	28⅛	Treas 2½%	29⅛	- ⅛	8.39	
49⅛	45⅛	Consols 4%	46⅛	- ⅛	8.53	
INDEX-LINKED on projected inflation of:					10%	5%
218⅛	201⅛	Treas IL 2% 1996	212⅛	- ⅛	0.54	3.16
113⅛	105⅛	Treas IL 4⅝% 1998	111⅛†	- ⅛	2.96	3.12
177⅛	165⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2001	176	- ⅛	3.09	3.55
173⅛	161⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2003	172	- ⅛	3.25	3.56
115⅛	109⅛	Treas IL 4⅛% 2004	114⅛†	- ⅛	3.26	3.59
183⅛	168⅛	Treas IL 2% 2006	180⅛	- ⅛	3.34	3.60
165⅛	152⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2009	162⅛	- ⅛	3.42	3.65
171⅛	157⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2011	168⅛	- ⅛	3.46	3.66
141⅛	129⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2013	138⅛	- ⅛	3.51	3.69
150⅛	137⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2016	147⅛	- ⅛	3.55	3.71
147⅛	131⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2020	141⅛xd	- ⅛	3.59	3.73
120⅛	109⅛	Treas IL 2½% 2024	117⅛	- ⅛	3.59	3.71
119⅛	108⅛	Treas IL 4⅛% 2030	116⅛	- ⅛	3.59	3.72

RETAILERS, GENERAL

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
67	21	Alexon	67	+ 5		
244	167	Allders	182		4.7	10.3
510	324	Argos Plc	496	- 4	3.0	20.8
121	63	Ashley (Laura)	119			
140	54	Aspley	95		1.0	13.0
225	182½	Austin Reed	192		3.9	11.0
146	123	Beattie (J) 'A'	134		6.1	14.7
124	102	Bentalls†	115		2.3	12.5
59½	38	Bettaware	53½		6.1	30.7
42	30	Blacks Leis†	39	+ 1	7.2	20.1
194	107	Body Shop	136	- 1	2.2	11.1
598	465	Boots	579	- 6	3.7	13.4
54	18	Brown & Jackson	30		...	
256	205	Brown (N)	256		2.5	20.8
111	66	Burton	110	+ 2½	2.2	28.8
150	90	Campari	96		3.9	
375	235	Carpetright	250		3.8	20.9
219	132	Christies Intl	204		1.4	34.7
480	437	Church	437	..	3.9	17.9
100	67	Clinton Cards	100		6.2	12.4
134	84	City Centre	132	..	4.1	
813	708	Courts Furnishr	740		1.1	21.6
220	183	Crown Eye	195		8.7	8.0
327	238	DFS Furniture	324		2.8	24.4
376	186	Dixons Grp	372	+ 2	2.4	22.5
580	580	Elys (Wimbldn)	580		3.8	35.9
10	5½	ERA Gp	8½			13.6
161	77	Essex Furn	92	...	6.2	10.2
236	153	Etam	180		5.3	14.7
460	320	Fine Art Dev	450		4.2	12.5
66	37	Finst Earth	66		2.0	25.1
140	81	Flying Flowers†	127	- 1	2.1	16.6
295	184	French Conn	184	- 1		12.0

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
485	358	Mersey Docks†	458	- 1	3.0	17.5
169	142½	NFC	146	- 1	6.1	14.9
422	380	Natl Express†	415	- 2	2.7	15.4
375	261	Ocean Group†	365	+ 2	4.9	22.3
94	68	Ocean Wilson	54		6.3	3.9
657	474	P & O Dfd†	478	+ 2	5.0	12.7
193	167	P & O 5½%	185	...	2.7	
99	55	Salvon	63		4.5	35.8
215	158	Servisair	211		2.1	29.7
269	196	Stagecoach†	265		3.5	17.2
110	79	TNT	92	- 2		
715	418	Tibbet & Britten†	468		4.2	15.2
241	164	TDG	197½	+ 3	6.0	13.1
128	76	Uglnal	79	- 1	6.0	12.8
112	77	Utd Carriers†	85		7.2	16.1

WATER

1995 High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	P/E
601	443	Anglian	556	- 2	6.5	9.1
366	295	Mid Kent Hldgs	358		4.4	9.7
641	467½	North West▼	601	+ 1	5.3	6.3
1053	676	Northumbrian	1012	- 4	3.5	8.7
689	475	Severn Trent	652	- 4	6.5	8.1
2295	1865	South Staffs	2285		3.7	13.3
556	459	South West	532	- 2	6.4	7.4
731	517	Southern	717	- 1	4.5	9.2
568	456	Thames	561	- 2	5.7	7.7
799	580½	Welsh▼	772	+ 3	6.6	9.2
106½	100½	Welsh Cm Pfd	105½			
361	256½	Wessex▼	349	- 4	4.7	8.7
677½	472	Yorkshire	657	- 1	5.3	10.5

Source: Finstat

ⓒ US$. ● Price at suspension. † Ex dividend. ‡ Ex scrip. ▲ Ex rights issue. ▼ Ex all. § Ex capital distribution. * Figures or report awaited. No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index

Wilkinson added to shortlist for new FA post

By Peter Ball

HOWARD WILKINSON, the manager of Leeds United, will be interviewed next week for the post of technical director to the Football Association. Wilkinson, a former FA staff coach, is the only FA Carling Premiership manager on the shortlist of five.

Wilkinson was invited to the interview when he returned from watching PSV Eindhoven, Leeds's next opponents in the Uefa Cup. He was cautious about his interest yesterday, saying that, until he knew more about the job, he could not commit himself. "I'm very happy at Leeds and have no thoughts outside that at the moment," he said.

The appointment begins in August next year. If Wilkinson is offered the job — and Terry Venables, the England manager, Roy Hodgson, the Switzerland manager, Gerard Houllier, the France coach, and Andy Roxburgh, the former Scotland manager, provide formidable opposition — Leeds will make every effort to keep him.

"With the request to talk to Howard coming from the FA, it was difficult for me to give it a blanket 'No'," Leslie Silver, the chairman of Leeds, said yesterday, "but I have made it abundantly clear to Howard that we don't want him to leave."

Wilkinson will have been at Leeds seven years on Tuesday, taking the club back into the top flight and winning the championship three years ago. He may feel that there is still work to be done at Elland Road, but the prospect of setting the course for English football, and the security that the FA offers, is sure to be tempting.

Juninho, the Brazil midfield player, is likely to make a decision about his future after playing in a league match for São Paulo tomorrow. Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, has spent [illegible] of this week in talks with Juninho, but Arsenal, Leeds United, Aston Villa and FC Porto have also expressed an interest in signing the 22-year-old.

Daniel Amokachi, of Everton, was yesterday passed fit to resume training after a second brainscan. Amokachi and Andrei Kanchelskis, who came through a practice game yesterday, are expected to return to Premiership action next weekend.

Croatia intent on victory beyond the battlefield

Rob Hughes reports from Split on a nation at war distracted by the rise of its football team

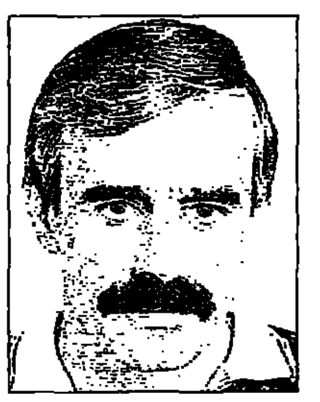
CROATIA, a country at war, is also, this weekend, host to one of the most significant qualifying matches so far for the European championship finals of 1996. It is far from the sympathy zone that one may have felt towards Terry Venables (because he has lost Gascoigne), or Craig Brown (who has lost McCoist), or even Jack Charlton (whose Ireland team is shorn of Irwin and Keane). Here there are new perspectives, perspectives that can be spotted the moment you inspect the bullet holes in the office walls of the Hajduk Split club, whose magnificent stadium hosts Croatia against Italy tomorrow night.

The Italians tried to move this game from the medieval Mediterranean city of Split. They did not want to cross the water, a 40-minute flight, and face the Croatia team that, in November last year, travelled to Palermo and beat them 2-1.

At 8.30pm tomorrow, there will be an explosion here for sure, but, rather than the guns and the mortars in the minds of some timid Italians, it will come from the *Torcida*. They are a band of supporters as fanatical, as joyous, as quiet until provoked, as Brazilians or any other true football followers. Yet, after barely five years as an independent republic, the political significance of winning at sport is an almost frightening priority for a country whose borders are still under violent dispute.

My host here has been Ivan Katalinic. He was the Southampton goalkeeper a dozen years ago and he still has that look of the athlete. Nowadays, he coaches Hajduk Split to championship after championship — coaches, that is, a different team each year because the phrase "selling to survive" has a more extreme interpretation here than anywhere in the United Kingdom. No less than six of the championship winning team of last year have been sold.

"People expect us to win tomorrow," Katalinic said. "Yes, if we had a full team, I would back them myself. The problem is we have only 11 really good players. When three of them are out, as they are for this match, we are vulnerable." Then this brooding man, whose appearance belies the most generous spirit, said something apparently incongruous. "The Italians have greater strength than us — they are better fighters, they have greater physical stamina, their morale is higher."



Katalinic: generous

Yet Italy shelter, until the last possible moment of departure, in their sumptuous training abode near Florence. Their coach, Arrigo Sacchi, a man who has neurotically gone through 81 players in four years in charge of the national team, is already reportedly arranging his bolt-hole at AS Roma should Italy lose. Such a result would seriously damage their chances of qualifying from group four.

One cause of Italy's fear is that they are without Roberto Baggio, Signori, Casiraghi and the unwilling Vialli. There is, shrug the Italians, a dearth of firepower. Another double-edged phrase in this situation. Croatia possess, when all the team are running, a forward line that would destroy most visitors — Boban, the supplier and crafter; Suker, scorer of eight goals in eight qualifying games; Boksic, the lean Lazio sniper; and Prosinecki, the intuitive and elegant Barcelona goalscorer.

Alas, Prosinecki's muscle weakness has struck again. He is out and so are two other important members of the 11. Nevertheless, the country waits and demands. Croatia have won all four home qualifying ties. They have scored 15 goals and conceded but one. The team, known here as "the Croatian commandos", comprises men who, because they are athletes, because the identity of the new republic has to be established through performance, are excused the conscription that would take them to the battlefields.

Their home city of Split is overrun with upwards of 20,000 refugees from Bosnia, but the one thing you will not find in the Croatian training camp at Vila Dalmacija is a soldier. Here is the most unlikely incongruity of them all: the only serving conscript when the match kicks off tomorrow will be a young fellow called Alessandro Del Piero. *He may just have* signed a £1.2 million-per-annum, five-year deal with Juventus, he may be Italy's natural successor to Baggio, yet he is nominally a member of the Italian army and, as such, he has lost his long, dark flowing locks and now sports a military short back and sides.

Croatia makes no stipulation on the appearance or the military duties of its team. It would be impossible to do so, considering the country's predicament and given the location of the stadium, which is 200 metres from an army barracks from where Serbian soldiers, at the start of the war four years ago, carefully avoided the Catholic church and fired 15 shells onto the playing field. *Not one detonat*ed, but nobody makes the same pledge, in sporting terms, for tomorrow night.

TONY MARSHALL

The prowess of Boksic, of Croatia, is well known in Italy, where he plays for Lazio

Cantona's return helped by family strength

By Rob Hughes

THE comeback of Cantona, his triumph against Liverpool followed by his stoic resistance to a provocative foul at York, augmented his reputation as a man apart. "Eric is an island," Gerard Houllier, the former France coach and confidant to Cantona, repeated.

Houllier is wrong. No man is without a family and Cantona very definitely drew his around him last Sunday. *Unseen by most observers*, this supposedly fugitive man was the centre of a very touching human bond at Old Trafford.

Albert, his father, a gentle man of Provence and once a psychiatric nurse, was seen wandering through a Manchester United souvenir shop. He wore a heavy coat and soft *training shoes, filling three* plastic bags with goodies.

The location was significant, for it had been at that same souvenir shop last January, when Cantona's football world seemed to implode, that he had purchased a No 7 shirt, apparently in case this was a parting gift to his seven-year-old son.

Now, *for his return, both his* father and his mother, Eleonore, were in the stand. So were his brothers, Jean-Marie and Joel, and so was Claude Boli, the younger brother of Basile, who studies at Loughborough University and whom Cantona has befriended to see him through the loneliness in a foreign land.

On the evening of the Liverpool game, Cantona, his family and their wives were taken to a restaurant for a private *celebration. It remained* private, despite the efforts of some journalists to intrude and despite Cantona's own surprising invitation to a comparatively new friend to join them. The friend had the good taste to decline, to realise that this supposedly solitary man needed the time with those who know and support him best.

Imagine, then, the return to garboesque Cantona the following morning. He was at the Cliff and so were the *French media. The Onze* magazine had waited for hours. He knew it, but he walked past, neglecting them completely. Cantona's status quo was restored, his feeling that the media were prepared to ruin his life, to have him jailed or banned *sine die*, was back.

Hamilton's late change of heart delights league clubs

By Russell Kempson

BRYAN HAMILTON, the Northern Ireland manager, has backed down from invoking the five-day rule that would have barred several of his *players from appearing for their* clubs in the Endsleigh Insurance League this afternoon. For Sunderland, Reading and Leicester City, it was a particularly pleasing gesture.

Leicester, the first division leaders, anticipated having to visit Barnsley, who are third, without Colin Hill, the central defender; Sunderland would have been without Phil Gray, their striker, for the trip to Crystal Palace; and Reading would have had to do without Jimmy Quinn, their forward and joint-player-manager, for the match at West Bromwich Albion.

*Hamilton was attempting to pro*tect his international assets for the European championship qualifying group six tie against Liechtenstein in Vaduz on Wednesday. However, after protests from the clubs concerned and the Football League, the Irish Football Association relented.

With the FA Carling Premiership taking the weekend off, Hamilton had no such contentious decisions to make when calling up Gerry Taggart, the Bolton Wanderers defender, to replace the injured Alan McDonald, of Queens Park Rangers.

Kevin Phillips, the Watford striker, is expected to be fit to play against second-placed Millwall at Vicarage Road after recovering from a thigh injury and a bruised shoulder. The latter injury was sustained when he ran on to the pitch to celebrate with his team-mates after Watford's penalty shoot-out win over Bournemouth in the Coca-Cola Cup second round on Tuesday. Phillips, who had not played because of the thigh strain, was apparently mistaken for a Watford supporter and allegedly struck with a truncheon.

Chief Inspector Martin Nunn, of Dorset police, said: "Although we have not yet received an official complaint, we believe it is important for us to establish the facts surrounding the alleged incident. We have voluntarily referred the investigation to the Police Complaints Authority because it is a matter in the public interest. I will be travelling to Watford to take statements from people at the match."

Swindon Town, the leaders of the second division, are planning an autumn sale at the County Ground. "Everyone knows we have *to cut the* wage bill and there will definitely be some outgoings in the near future," Steve McMahon, the Swindon player-manager, said. Joey Beauchamp moved to Oxford United this week, with Brian Kilcline, Andy Mutch, Fraser Digby and Adrian Viveash also candidates for the out-tray.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated
* denotes all-ticket

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division
(1) Barnsley v Leicester
(2) Charlton v Grimsby
(3) Crystal Palace v Sunderland
(4) Huddersfield v Port Vale
(—) Ipswich v Wolverhampton
(5) Oldham v Portsmouth
(6) Sheffield Utd v Derby
(7) Stoke v Norwich
(8) Tranmere v Luton
(—) Watford v Millwall
(9) West Bromwich v Reading

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leicester	10	6	2	2	16	11	20
Millwall	10	5	3	2	10	7	18
Barnsley	10	5	2	3	16	19	17
Charlton	10	4	4	2	15	10	16
Huddersfield	10	5	1	4	15	14	16
Sunderland	10	4	4	2	12	10	16
Ipswich	10	4	3	3	18	16	15
Oldham	10	4	3	3	14	10	15
Norwich	10	4	3	3	13	11	15
West Brom	10	4	3	3	13	11	15
Southend	10	4	2	4	10	10	14
Birmingham	10	3	4	3	16	12	13
Tranmere	9	3	4	2	14	10	13
Grimsby	10	3	4	3	10	11	13
Watford	10	3	3	4	14	14	12
Reading	10	2	6	2	13	13	12
Sheff Utd	10	3	2	5	15	16	11
Crystal Palace	9	2	5	2	10	11	11
Wolves	10	2	4	4	13	13	10
Derby	10	2	4	4	10	15	10
Stoke	10	2	4	4	9	15	10
Portsmouth	10	2	3	5	13	17	9
Luton	10	2	3	5	8	13	9
Port Vale	10	1	4	5	7	13	7

FA CUP: *Third qualifying round:* Barrow v Durham, Bishop Auckland v Lancaster, Spennymoor v Billingham Town, Blyth Spartans v Bedlington Terriers, Northwich v Eastwood Town, Morecambe v Gainsborough, Guiseley v Mossley, Hyde v Colwyn Bay, Bradford Park Avenue v Curzon Ashton, Marine v Ilkeston, Winsford v Hinckley A, Telford v Halesowen Town, Hednesford v Solihull, Sandwell v Rushden and Diamonds, Leicester United v Evesham, Burton v Racing Club Warwick, Wisbech v Sudbury, King's Lynn v Canvey Island, Chelmsford v Billericay, Hertford v Sudbury, Dagenham and Redbridge v Purfleet, Stevenage v Staines, St Albans v Romford, Hendon v Hayes, Bracknell v Wembley, Farnborough v Walton and Hersham, Tooting and Mitcham v Ashford, Bognor Regis v Dulwich Hamlet, Bromley v Sittingbourne, Gravesend and Northfleet v Carshalton, Buckingham Town v Aldershot Town, Thame United v Newport (IoW), Weymouth v Dorchester, Trowbridge v Newport AFC, Forest Green v Cinderford, Tiverton v Bideford

SMIRNOFF IRISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Ards v Glenavon, Glentoran v Bangor, Linfield v Crusaders, Portadown v Cliftonville

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Sligo v Cork (7.30)

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Second division
(10) Brentford v Blackpool
(11) Bristol Rovers v Bournemouth
(12) Burnley v Wycombe
(13) Carlisle v Notts County
(14) Chesterfield v Crewe
(15) Hull v Shrewsbury
(16) Oxford Utd v Stockport
(17) Rotherham v Brighton
(18) Swansea v Bradford
(19) Swindon v Bristol City
(—) Walsall v Peterborough
(20) York v Wrexham

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon	10	7	2	1	21	8	23
Blackpool	10	6	1	3	15	10	19
Bradford	10	6	1	3	15	14	19
Crewe	9	5	3	1	19	9	18
Stockport	10	5	3	2	12	6	18
Notts County	10	5	3	2	12	8	18
Chesterfield	10	5	2	3	17	10	17
Bristol Rovers	10	5	2	3	13	12	17
Burnley	10	4	3	3	12	11	15
Oxford Utd	10	3	5	2	13	8	14
Wycombe	10	3	5	2	12	9	14
Bournemouth	10	4	1	5	12	16	13
Rotherham	10	3	3	4	13	13	12
Walsall	10	3	3	4	12	11	12
Peterborough	10	3	3	4	12	16	12
Wrexham	10	2	5	3	12	14	11
York	10	3	2	5	11	14	11
Brentford	10	3	2	5	6	10	11
Swansea	10	2	4	4	11	17	10
Brighton	10	2	3	5	10	16	9
Carlisle	10	2	3	5	10	16	9
Bristol City	9	1	5	3	6	12	8
Hull	10	1	4	5	4	11	7
Shrewsbury	10	1	2	7	10	20	5

Third division
(21) Barnet v Exeter
(22) Bury v Leyton Orient
(23) Cambridge Utd v Cardiff
(24) Chester v Doncaster
(25) Colchester v Hartlepool
(26) Gillingham v Rochdale
(27) Hereford v Torquay
(28) Lincoln v Darlington
(29) Plymouth v Fulham
(30) Preston v Scarborough
(31) Scunthorpe v Northampton
(32) Wigan v Mansfield

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gillingham	10	6	3	1	16	4	21
Chester	10	6	2	2	19	10	20
Leyton Orient	10	5	4	1	16	9	19
Rochdale	10	5	3	2	20	11	18
Plymouth	10	5	1	4	17	11	16
Cambridge Utd	10	4	4	2	17	15	16
Exeter	10	4	4	2	11	9	16
Preston	10	3	6	1	16	12	15
Colchester	10	4	3	3	15	12	15
Northampton	10	4	2	4	14	13	14
Doncaster	10	4	2	4	8	13	14
Fulham	10	3	4	3	18	14	13
Wigan	10	3	4	3	11	11	13
Scarborough	10	3	3	4	11	14	12
Cardiff	10	3	3	4	10	9	12
Hartlepool	10	3	3	4	9	16	12
Hereford	10	2	4	4	15	16	10
Mansfield	10	1	7	2	12	15	10
Scunthorpe	10	2	4	4	11	13	10
Bury	10	2	4	4	11	21	10
Torquay	10	2	4	4	10	13	10
Darlington	10	1	6	3	10	12	9
Barnet	10	1	4	5	8	15	7
Lincoln	10	1	2	7	10	27	5

Vauxhall Conference
(33) Altrincham v Bath
(34) Kettering v Slough
(—) Kidderminster v Dover
(35) Macclesfield v Bromsgrove
(36) Runcorn v Halifax
(—) Welling v Gateshead

FA CARLSBERG VASE: Second qualifying round replays: Birstall v Banbury St Margaretsbury v Wealdstone

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division: *Baldock v Stafford; Cambridge City* v Atherstone, Cheltenham v Gresley, Crawley v Gloucester, Worcester v Hastings. **Southern division**, Bashley v Fareham, Erith and Belvedere v Poole, Fisher '93 v Braintree, Fleet v Clevedon, Tonbridge v Havant, Waterlooville v Yate, Weston-super-Mare v Margate. **Midland division**, Bilston v Rothwell, Bridgnorth v Tamworth, Dudley v Hinckley, Grantham v Bedworth, Nuneaton Borough v Corby, Paget Rangers v Moor Green

Icis League
Premier division
(—) Aylesbury v Boreham Wood
(—) Chertsey v Enfield
(37) Kingstonian v Hitchin
(—) Molesey v Bishop's Stortford
(—) Worthing v Sutton United
(38) Yeovil v Yeading

FIRST DIVISION: Barking v Basingstoke, Berkhamsted v Abingdon Town, Maidenhead United v Oxford City, Ruislip Manor v Chesham, Uxbridge v Leyton Pennant, Wokingham v Heybridge Swifts. **Second division:** Chalfont St Peter v Wivenhoe, Collier Row v Leatherhead, Edgware v Sanstead, Egham v Metropolitan Police, Hampton v Croydon, H Hempstead v Tilbury, Saffron Walden v Bedford T, Witham v Ware. **Third division:** Camberley v Clapton, East Thurrock v Harlow, Flackwell Heath v Aveley, Harefield v Cove, Hornchurch v Windsor and Eton, Horsham v Tring, Leighton v Kingsbury, Southall v Northwood, Epsom and Ewell v Wingate and Finchley

UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division. Accrington Stanley v Boston, Buxton v Knowsley, Chorley v Witton, Emley v Matlock, Frickley v Droylsden, Leek v Bamber Bridge. **First division:** Alfreton v Fleetwood, Atherton LR v Harrogate Town, Leigh v Farsley Celtic, Lincoln United v Ashton United, Radcliffe v Netherfield, Whitley Bay v Gretna, Workington v Warrington, Worksop v Great Harwood.

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Ashfield v Arnold, Belper Town v Maltby MW, Brigg v Ossett Albion, Hallam v Armthorpe Welfare, Hatfield Main v Liversedge, Hucknall v Glasshoughton Welfare, North Ferriby v Denaby, Ossett Town v Sheffield, Pickering v Thackley; Stocksbridge PS v Goole

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE League cup. Ashton Town v Squires Gate, Daisy Hill v Blackpool Mechanics, Maghull v Formby, Middlewich v Atherton Collieries, Nelson v Cheadle, Ramsbottom v Vauxhall GM, Stantondale v Haslingden, Tetley Walker v Castleton Gabriels

FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division. Consett v Tow Law, Crook v Peterlee, Eppleton CW v Billingham, Guisborough v Dunston Federation, Shildon v Chester-le-Street, Stockton v Ferryhill, West Auckland v RTM Newcastle, Whickham v Murton, Whitby v Seaham Red Star

COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE PREMIER DIVISION: Ash v Bedfont, Ashford v Horley, Cobham v Merstham, Farnham v Feltham, Godalming and Guildford v Netherne, Raynes Park Vale v Cranleigh, Viking Sports v Chipstead; Walton Casuals v DCA Basingstoke, Westfield v Eton Wick.

MINERVA SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE. Premier division: Arlesey Town v Royston, Biggleswade v London Colney, Harpenden v Potters Bar, Hatfield v Brache Sparta, Hoddesdon v Letchworth, Shillington v Dunstable, Toddington v Buckingham Athletic, Welwyn Garden v Milton Keynes

GREAT MILLS LEAGUE. Premier division: Backwell v Crediton, Bridport v Barnstaple, Bristol Manor Farm v Paulton, Calne v Taunton, Elmore v Chippenham, Mangotsfield v Frome, Torrington v Odd Down

JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Fakenham v Clacton, Great Yarmouth v Woodbridge, Halstead v Walton, Haverhill v Stowmarket, Lowestoft v Soham, Newmarket v Cornard, Sudbury Res v March, Tiptree v Diss, Wisbech v Hadleigh U, Wroxham v Felixstowe

JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE. First division: Bemerton Heath v Andover, Swanage and H v Downton, Thatcham v Portsmouth, Wimborne v Ryde Sports

BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE: Premier Division: Cradley Town v Gornal A, Ettingshall v Wednesfield, Hill Top v Darlaston, Lye Town v Malvern Town, Pelsall Villa v Brierley Hill, Stourport v Walsall Wood, Tividale v Westfields

HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division. Almondsbury v North Leigh, Brackley v Shortwood, Burnham v Tuffley, Carterton v *Bicester, Cirencester v Fairford*, Didcot v Endsleigh, Kintbury v Banbury, Lambourn Sports v Highworth, Swindon Supermarine v Abingdon United

Bell's Scottish League
Premier division
(39) Aberdeen v Rangers
(40) Celtic v Partick
(41) Hibernian v Falkirk
(42) Kilmarnock v Hearts
(43) Motherwell v Raith

First division
(44) Clydebank v Greenock Morton
(45) Dumbarton v Dundee Utd
(46) Dundee v St Mirren
(47) Hamilton v Dunfermline
(48) St Johnstone v Airdrie

Second division
(49) Berwick v East Fife
(50) Clyde v Stranraer
(51) Forfar v Stirling
(52) Queen Of South v Ayr
(53) Stenhousemuir v Montrose

Third division
(54) Brechin v Albion
(55) Cowdenbeath v Arbroath
(56) East Stirling v Caley This
(57) Queen's Park v Alloa
(58) Ross County v Livingston

LEAGUE OF WALES: Aberystwyth v Caernarfon, Briton Ferry v Cwmbran; Cemaes Bay v Afan Lido, Conwy v Barry (2.30), Ebbw Vale v Connah's Quay (2.30), Holywell v Llanelli, Inter Cardiff v Porthmadog, Llansantffraid v Bangor City, Rhyl v Caersws, Ton Pentre v Newtown

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION. First division: Arsenal v Wimbledon

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Arsenal v Gillingham, Cambridge United v Southend, Charlton Ath v Fulham, Leyton Orient v QPR, Portsmouth v Millwall, Tottenham Hotspur v Ipswich, Watford v Norwich, West Ham v Chelsea.

ESSEX SENIOR LEAGUE: Premier division: Burnham Ramblers v East Ham, Bowers v Concord, Great Wakering v Brentwood, Maldon v Stansted, Sawbridgeworth v Basildon U. Cup: First round: Hullbridge Sports v Southend Manor

PONTINS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First division: Liverpool v Blackburn Rovers (at Southport FC, 2.0), Manchester United v Leeds United (2.0).

LONDON SPARTAN LEAGUE: Premier division: *Barkingside v Hanwell*; Beaconsfield Sycob v Cockfosters; Brimsdown v Amersham, Brook House v Tufnell Park, Hillingdon v Croydon, Willesden (Hawkeye) v Tottenham Omada; Waltham Abbey v Woolwich

UNIJET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Hailsham v Pagham, Portfield v Peacehaven and Telscombe, Ringmer v Mile Oak, Southwick v Langney Sports; Stamco v Eastbourne Town, Three Bridges v Horsham YMCA, Whitehawk v Burgess Hill

WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First division: Beckenham v Herne Bay; Canterbury v Slade Green, Cray v Tunbridge Wells, Crockenhill v Corinthian; Deal v Dartford; Folkestone Invicta v Chatham; Furness v Faversham, Greenwich v Ramsgate; Hythe v Sheppey; Whitstable v Thamesmead.

HEREWARD SPORTS UNITED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Boston v St Neots, Cogenhoe v *Kempston, Long Buckby v Bourne, Mirrlees Blackstone* v Northampton Spencer, Potton v Newport Pagnell, Raunds v S and L Corby; Spalding v Wellingborough, Stotfold v Desborough; Wootton v Stamford.

INTERLINK EXPRESS MIDLAND ALLIANCE: Armitage v Rushall O, Blakenall v Boldmere S, Boldmere St Michael's v *Rocester, Hinckley Athletic v Willenhall*, Oldbury United v Barwell, Sandwell v Knypersley V, Shepshed Dynamo v Chasetown, Shifnal Town v Halesowen Harriers, Stapenhill v Pershore Town; Stratford Town v West Midlands Police

ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: Anstells v Shirley; Chelmsley v Kings Heath, Coventry Sphinx v Studley BKL, Highgate v Handrahan Timbers, Massey Ferguson v Knowle, Olton Royale v Coleshill, Upton v Northfield, West Midlands Fire Service v Alvechurch Villa

AFA SENIOR CUP: Old Elizabethans v Alexandra Park; Direct Line v Old Bromleians, Wood Green OB v Old Camdenians, Old Haileyburian v Pegasus, Old Aldenhamians v Hadley, Nottsborough *v London Hospital OB, Inland Revenue* v City of London; Old Actonians v Lensbury; Old Minchendenians v Shene OG

SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: First division: Carshalton v NatWest Bank; Crouch End Vampires v Civil Service; Norsemen v Winchmore Hill, Old Esthameians v East Barnet OG; West Wickham v South Bank. Second division: Barclays Bank v Old Lyonian; Lloyds Bank v Midland Bank, Old Stationers v Parmiterians; Polytechnic v Old Parkonians. Third division: Alleyn OB v Cuaco, Brentham v Old Salesians; Merton v Bank of England, Old Westminster Citizens v Reigate Priory; Southgate Olympic v Ibis

ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: Premier division: Chigwellians v Carthusians; Cholmeleians v Lancing, Foresters v Etonians, Malvernians v Reptonians. First division: Brentwoods v Witleians, Haberdashers v Bradfieldians, Harrovians v Ardinians; Wellingburians v Wykehamists

SOUTHERN OLYMPIAN LEAGUE: Senior one: Ulysses v Old Grammarians. Senior two: Corinthian Casual v Old Bealonians. Senior three: Birkbeck Coll v Westerns: Hampstead Heathens v Polygons, Old Parmiterians v Duncombe Sports, Old Finchleians v London Welsh.

OLD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier division: Latymer v Old Tenisonians, Old Hamptonians v Old Aloysians, Old Ignatians v Glyn, Old Isleworthians v Old Danes, Old Meadonians v Cardinal Manning. Senior first division: Old Kingsburians v Old Suttonians, Old Manorians v Chertsey; Old Tenisonians Res v Old *Tiffinians: Old Vaughanians v Old* Salvatorians, Old Wilsonians v School.

SCHOOLS MATCHES (10.30 unless stated) Fuji Film Trophy: Second round: South London v Hackney. Inter-County Under-15 and Under-16: Lancashire v Cumbria (Lytham St. Anne's). Charlton Cup: Gosport v Poole; Portsmouth v Isle of Wight. Southampton v *Aldershot. Shaw* Cup: Ipswich v Norwich. Yarmouth v Lowestoft; Peterborough v Cambridge. Rangers Cup: Islington v Blackheath. Essex Smeathers Trophy: Havering v Basildon (10.0). Centenary match: Croydon v Reading. Essex Johnson Cup: Redbridge v Barking (10.0). London Sun *Shield:* Newham v *Lea Valley (11.0)*. Goodhand Trophy: Hull v Nottingham. Inter-Association: Chester v Macclesfield: Luton v Wellingborough, Sheffield v Huddersfield, Wigan v St Helens, Vale of White Horse v East Berks, York v Leeds

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Basingstoke v Milton Keynes (6.30): Fife v Durham (7.15); Nottingham v Humberside (6.30); Slough v Cardiff (6.30). First division: Blackburn v Peterborough (6.0), Bracknell v Solihull (6.0), Manchester v Billingham *(7.0); Murrayfield v Chelmsford* (7.0); Paisley v Guildford (7.0); Swindon v Dumfries (5.30), Telford v Medway (7.30).

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: *Leicester v Hemel (7.30)*

BOWLS: Causeway Coast Masters (Ballymoney)

BOXING: World Boxing Organisation welterweight championship: Eamonn Loughran (Ballymena, holder) v Angel Beltre (Dom) (Belfast).

CYCLING: *Colchester Rovers (30 miles, Ardleigh, 3.0).*

SPEEDWAY (7.30 unless stated). Premier League: Cradley Heath v Eastbourne, King's Lynn v Swindon. British Academy: Stoke v Mildenhall.

TENNIS: Men's and women's satellite tournaments - *(Nottingham)*. Maureen Connolly Cup: Great Britain under-21 v United States under-21 (Scotstoun Leisure Centre, Glasgow)

RUGBY UNION

Kick off 3.0 unless stated

Courage Clubs Championship
First division
Bristol v Sale
Harlequins v Saracens
Orrell v Gloucester
Wasps v Bath (2.15)
West Hartlepool v Leicester

Second division
Bedford v Northampton
Blackheath v Newcastle Gosforth
Nottingham v London Irish
Wakefield v London Scottish
Waterloo v Moseley

Pilkington Cup
Second round
Basingstoke v Lewes
Birmingham Solihull v Worcester
Bridlington v Aspatria
Cheltenham v Weston-S-Mare
Clifton v Met Police
Gloucester OB v London Welsh
Harrogate v Fylde
Havant v Exeter
Henley v Hornets
Liverpool St Helens v Hull Ionians
Lydney v Harlow
Macclesfield v Morley
Netherall v Winnington Park
Northern v Stourbridge
Otley v Stoke
Plymouth v Camberley
Redruth v North Walsham
Rosslyn Park v Richmond
Rotherham v Coventry
Scunthorpe v Walsall
Stockton v Leeds
Tabard v Askeans
Westcombe Park v Reading (2.45)

Club matches
Bournemouth v High Wycombe
Hereford v Nuneaton
Kendal v Tynedale
Lichfield v Leighton Buzzard
Penzance v Camborne
Preston Grasshoppers v Bradford
Sheffield v Ribblesdale

Heineken League
First division
Aberavon v Llanelli (2.30)
Abertillery v Ebbw Vale (2.30)
Bridgend v Pontypridd (2.30)
Cardiff v Treorchy (2.30)
Newbridge v Swansea (2.30)
Newport v Neath (2.30)

Second division
Caerphilly v Abercynon (2.30)
Dunvant v Pontypool (2.30)
Llandovery v Bonymaen (2.30)
Maesteg v Ystradgynlais (2.30)
South Wales Police v Cross Keys (2.30)
Tenby Utd v Llanharan (2.30)

THIRD DIVISION: Blackwood v Cardiff Institute; Glamorgan Wanderers v Blaina, Kenfig Hill v Narberth; Mountain Ash v Builth Wells; Pyle v Penarth; Tondu v Tredegar

Tennents Championship
First division
Hawick v Gala
Heriots FP v Boroughmuir
Melrose v Stirling County
Watsonians v Edinburgh Acads

Second division
Glasgow HK v Selkirk
Jed-Forest v Currie
Stewarts Mel FP v Kelso
West of Scotland v Dundee HSFP

THIRD DIVISION: Biggar v Corstorphine; Musselburgh v Kirkcaldy; Peebles v Glasgow Academicals; Preston Lodge v Grangemouth. ***FOURTH DIVISION:*** Ayr v Glasgow Southern; Kilmarnock v Haddington; Langholm v Gordonians; Wigtownshire v Edinburgh Wanderers.

Insurance Corporation League
First division
Blackrock Coll v Cork Const (2.30)
Instonians v Lansdowne (2.30)
Old Belvedere v Garryowen (2.30)
St Mary's College v Old Wesley (2.30)
Young Munster v Shannon (2.30)

Second division
Dolphin v Sunday's Well (2.30)
Malone v Dungannon (2.30)
NIFC v Greystones (2.30)
Old Crescent v Bective Rangers (2.30)
Terenure Coll v Wanderers (2.30)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Halifax World Cup
Group one
England v Australia
(at Wembley, 3.0)

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Dudley Hill v Lock Lane (2.30); Hemel Hempstead v Egremont (11.0); Leigh Miners v Wigan St Patricks (2.30), Millom v Saddleworth (2.30)

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: Old Loughtonians v Bournville.

DTZ LEAGUE: Premier division: Belper v Nottingham; Bridgnorth v Khalsa, Hampton-in-Arden v Harborne; John Player v Loughborough Students, North Notts v *Bloxwich*.

NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Ben Rhydding v Norton, Formby v Sheffield Bankers; Harrogate v Halifax; Neston v Timperley; Southport v Warrington. Second Division: Alderley Edge v Doncaster II; Brooklands II v Northern; Disley v Blackburn; Hull II v Knutsford; Oxton v Stockton; Swalwell v Bowdon; Tynemouth v Ramgarhia: Wakefield v Springfields; Wigan v York.

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Bedford Town v Ipswich; Bishops Stortford v Peterborough Town; Bury St Edmunds v Redbridge and Ilford, Cambridge City v Cambridge University; Chelmsford v Colchester. Premier division B: Brentwood v Westcliff, Clacton v Sudbury; Dereham v Stevenage; Ipswich and East Suffolk v Luton Town; Norwich City v Old Southendian.

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: Ashford v Gore Court; Bournemouth v Fareham, Chichester v Wokingham; High Wycombe v Newbury; Lewes v Woking; Lions v Anchorians; Maidenhead v Beckenham, Old Walcountians v Old Kingstonians; Wimbledon v Spencer; Winchester v Oxford Hawks. Hampshire/Surrey: Barnes v Southampton; Camberley v Andover; Cheam v Old Cranleighans; Dulwich v Petersfield; Epsom v Old Mid. Whitgiftians, London University v Oxted; Old Edwardians v Basingstoke; Old Whitgiftians v Blandford; Pirelli v Walton and Weybridge, Purley v Oxshott. Kent/Sussex: Bexleyheath v Old Williamsonians; Bexley Invicta v Old Bordenians; Blackheath v Horsham, Bognor v Belvedere; Brighton v Old Holcombeians; Crawley v Marden Russets; Herne Bay v Middleton, Tulse Hill v Old Beccehamians; Tunbridge Wells v Sevenoaks, Worthing v Mid Sussex. Middx/Berks/Bucks and Oxon: Amersham v PHC Chiswick; Bracknell v Milton Keynes: City Of Oxford v Mill Hill; Eastcote v Hayes; ETESSA v Ramgarhia; Harrow v HCC; Headington v NPL; Hendon v Marlow; Staines v OMT; Sunbury v Ricklings Park.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE: Premier division: Leicester v Slough; Doncaster v Bracknell; Hightown v Clifton; Ipswich v Sutton. First division: Canterbury v Exmouth; Chelmsford v Blueharts, Trojans v Bradford Swithenbank; Wimbledon v Sunderland. Second division: Ealing v St Albans; Reading v Aldridge; Sherwood v Olton; Woking v Loughborough.

LACROSSE

SHEPHERDS FRIENDLY SOCIETY LEAGUE: Premier division: Hulmeians v Cheadle; Old Waconians v Boardman and Eccles; Stockport v Heaton Mersey; Poynton v Mellor; Sheffield Steelers v Cheadle Hulme.

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

Endsleigh Insurance League
First division
Birmingham v Southend (2.55)

BORD GAIS LEAGUE OF IRELAND: Premier division: Derry v Dundalk (3.15)

FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National League: Croydon v Wembley, Doncaster Belles v Liverpool F C Ladies, Ilkeston v Villa Aztecs, Millwall Lionesses v Everton, Wolverhampton v Arsenal. Northern division: Bronte v Kidderminster Harr, RTM Newcastle v Garswood St Helens, Huddersfield v Sheffield Wednesday, Notts County v Langford. Southern division: Brentford v Wimbledon, Ipswich v Leyton Orient, Southampton Saints v Berkhamstead; Three Bridges v Oxford Utd Town and Country v Brighton and Hove

RUGBY UNION

Pilkington Cup
Second round
Rugby v Broad Street (3.0)

Tamar Cup
Cornwall v Devon
(at Redruth, 3.0)

RUGBY LEAGUE

Halifax World Cup
Group one
Fiji v South Africa
(at Keighley, 2.50)

Group two
New Zealand v Tonga
(at Warrington, 6.0)

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First division: Canterbury v Surbiton, East Grinstead v Hounslow, Guildford v Trojans, Havant v Cannock, Indian Gymkhana v Reading, St Albans v Barford Tigers, Stourport v Southgate. Postponed: Hull v Teddington. Second division: Crostyx v Bromley, Doncaster v Brooklands, Edgbaston v City Of Portsmouth, Gloucester City v Bluehearts, Harleston Magpies v Hampstead and Westminster, Isca v Beeston, Olton and West Warks v Firebrands, Oxford University v Slough, Richmond v Sheffield.

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: Premier division: Cardiff v Milton Keynes (6.15), Humberside v Fife (5.45), Newcastle v Slough (6.30). First division: Billingham v Telford (5.15), Blackburn v Bracknell (6.0), Medway v Dumfries (5.15), Murrayfield v Guildford (6.30), Paisley v Chelmsford (6.30), Peterborough v Swindon (6.0), Solihull v Manchester (7.0)

OTHER SPORT

ATHLETICS: Bupa Great South Run (Portsmouth)

BOWLS: Causeway Coast Masters (Ballymoney)

BASKETBALL: European Championship for men Semi-final round: Latvia v England (8.0)

CYCLING: Merseyside Wheelers (28 miles, Hatchmere, Cheshire, 10.0).

MOTOR SPORT: British Formula Three Championship (Silverstone)

SPEEDWAY: Premier League: Eastbourne v Exeter (6.0), Glasgow v Sheffield (6.30), Swindon v King's Lynn (6.0)

TENNIS: Men's and women's satellite tournaments (Nottingham)

هكذا من الاصل

Leading quartet relish chance to outpace the rest

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

DELETE, for a moment, the leading four clubs in the Courage Clubs Championship and what remains in the first division is a mishmash of inconsistency — six teams who, on their day, can be successful against any of the others but can no more guarantee such results as offer a meaningful professional contract to any of their players.

It is against such a background that the leading quartet have an unparalleled opportunity to confirm their position and draw clear of the rest. The equation, in the eyes of any ambitious player, is simple: if you want to get on, go to Bath, Leicester, Harlequins or Wasps. If it were true before the introduction of open rugby, it is more so now, with the obvious exception of Newcastle's unique position in the second division.

So what future for the homelier likes of Orrell and Gloucester, who meet today at Edgehall Road? These clubs represent, if you like, the highest level of grass roots that English rugby can offer, clubs that are part of the fabric of local life and that have sustained themselves in the top echelon — or, in Orrell's case — dragged themselves up to it, through local resources.

Such resources are no longer enough and the problem is doubled when employment prospects in the local area are limited. If the clubs are to employ players directly, they need the money to do so and that is in short supply. Against such a backdrop, the two clubs scrabble in the first-division basement, lacking even the iron-hard forwards who sustained them for so many years in the dear-departed amateur days.

Orrell, as it happens, took heart from their 55-20 drubbing by Bath last week. "That was the best rugby we have played this season," Sammy Southern, their director of rugby, said, possibly because once the game was out of reach the players could relax and give vent to their skills rather than feel inhibited by the desperate search for league points.

Under the tutelage of Mike Slemen, the former England wing and now national selector, Orrell have an exciting back division which lacks in key positions that crucial ingredient — experience. Austin Healey is finding his way at scrum half, Simon Mason is fitting in at full back, but theirs is an unforgiving arena and so many stalwarts have gone since the 43-14 defeat of Gloucester last season.

Dave Sims, the Gloucester captain, attempted to deflect the uncertainty felt by the bottom teams. "Every team in the league is under pressure, no matter what position they are in," he said. "If you are at the top, you are under even greater pressure to stay there." He, though, would sooner be at the top than the bottom.

Bath, the leaders, face a test of their resolve at Wasps, while Harlequins, the division's other unbeaten club, restore Peter Mensah to their midfield against Saracens. The vacancy occurs through the absence of Will Carling, who damaged an ankle against West Hartlepool and could not train with England on Tuesday as a result.

Mark Russell gets a well-deserved rest and Gareth Allison, the Oxford Blue, is given a league debut at blind side, while Brian Moore replaces Simon Mitchell at hooker.

Leicester, who travel to West Hartlepool, do so without Niall Malone, who was concussed at Gloucester, so Jez Harris returns at stand-off half and will be partnered by Aadel Kardooni — the half-back combination last season.

It has been a bad week for the 100-per-centers in Wales. Cardiff, the Heineken League champions, lost in midweek to Bridgend and Newport fell at Pontypridd last Saturday. Pontypridd, however, will not rest secure in their tenure at the top since it is to Bridgend that they travel today, hoping that Dale McIntosh will be able to play No 8 after recovering from an arm injury.

Cardiff, in contrast, play Treorchy, the only club in the first division yet to garner a league point. The Rhondda club, so successful last season, has been affected by a horrendous injury-list, the latest casualty being Paul Jones with a broken thumb. Last season, it was the dream becoming reality; this season has been more like a nightmare.

WRU fails with first request for funding

THE Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) lost the opening battle of its campaign to fund a new national stadium in Cardiff yesterday when the Millenium Commission rejected its request for £49 million (David Hands writes). The war, though, is far from over, because the sticking point was that the WRU proposition embraces two stadiums, one for itself and a second for Cardiff Athletic Club.

The WRU seeks to turn the existing Cardiff Arms Park through 90 degrees and build a stadium, with a retractable roof, capable of holding 75,000 and worthy of staging the 1999 World Cup final. To do so, it has asked the Cardiff club membership, whose ground is next door, to relocate to Cardiff Bay and thus free land for the new stadium.

The commission, however, though impressed by public support for the WRU and its ability to more than match the required millenium funding from the private sector, will not support a two-stadium proposal. Therefore, the WRU must either fund Cardiff's removal itself, adding £10 million to the overall project cost of £104 million, or see if it is possible to shift its own plans slightly south, amid the confines of the city centre. The WRU must satisfy the commission within the next six weeks if it is to win funding for a schedule of work to begin next autumn.

Warne-Holland regains her form after recovering from an attack of nerves to beat Green in the Maureen Connolly Trophy yesterday

Britain bask in unprecedented success

By Stuart Jones
Tennis Correspondent

WITH the loss of only one rubber and with more than a day to spare, Great Britain retained the Maureen Connolly Trophy yesterday. The convincing margin, 6-1, is unprecedented and so is the sequence, for the hosts at least, of three successive victories.

Since domestic women's tennis has fallen to its lowest ebb, it seems curious that the under-21 team should have reached such heights. The explanation lies largely in the relative weakness of the opposition, all of whom are raw novices and still students in the United States.

The visitors could legitimately have been represented by the likes of Monica Seles, now an American citizen, Lindsay Davenport and Chanda Rubin. "They are off making money," as Carol Wayman stated. Responsible for selecting the team, she insisted that the line-up was as strong as could be found.

Since the well-publicised troubles and premature retirement of Jennifer Capriati, parents have reconsidered sending their daughters to the women's senior tour. "They were not so sure that they wanted them to come home with rings in their noses," as Wayman put it. "A college education has become a greater priority."

The Americans all intend to pursue a career in the sport, but, by the time they do, they will be comparatively aged. Wayman does not foresee any of the quintette making a fortune on court, but they will be able to turn to other fields.

Kate Warne-Holland, the least-recognised member of the British team, is more limited. With her mother's agreement, she took only two A levels, in geography and economics, and passed neither. Failure at least acted as an incentive and her progress up the rankings was significantly swift.

Music features loudly in her family. Her father is the director of the Royal Opera House, one of her sisters is singing jazz at the Hilton hotel in London and her brother is a sound engineer. She surpised even herself when she went solo in another direction.

She did not appear destined to be a success. At the age of 13, her lack of proficiency was such that she readily attempted new shots, at the suggestion of her coach, because "nothing else worked, so why not?" Yet, in the past year, she has climbed more than 300 places on the world ranking list.

An all-round game has been built and she was naturally armed with a strong first serve, even if her second was "horrendous" until she began working with Nigel Sears four months ago. Now, as Ann Jones, the team captain, said, "she looks the part".

At least she did until she led by a set and 4-1 against Traci Green. Warne-Holland was then inhibited by nerves and yielded seven of the next eight games before regaining her composure to win 7-5, 5-7, 6-4 in a match featuring 18 double faults, two-thirds of them by her opponent.

Karen Cross was overwhelmed 6-1, 6-4 by Sandy Sureephong, the most experienced of the Americans. Amanda Wainwright, a 19-year-old veteran of four events, subsequently carried too much weight for the stylish Farley Taylor.

Wainwright also led by a set and 3-0 before being afflicted by anxiety. She had to save a set point before clinching overall victory 6-4, 7-5. In the last and dead rubber of the day, Lucie Ahl increased the advantage by dismissing Marissa Catlin 6-3, 6-2.

Britain has now cut the overall deficit in the event, begun in 1973, to 17-6.

Scores, page 47

YOUR CHANCE TO GO TO A FASCINATING REGION OF AFRICA

Win a holiday for two in Ethiopia

Today *The Times* offers you the chance to win a 12-day holiday in Ethiopia, a fascinating region of Africa. The competition has been organised exclusively for our readers in association with Prospect Music and Art Tours Ltd.

The rugged highlands of Ethiopia have isolated the country from wider cultural influences and a unique set of historical circumstances has formed its people. The winner and his or her companion will visit the source of the Blue Nile and see what is reputed to be the Ark of the Covenant.

At the Royal Academy of Arts' new exhibition, Africa: The Art of a Continent, you will be able to see examples of some of the art from this distinctive region.

The holiday begins in the capital of Ethiopia, Addis Ababa, from there you will fly to Lalibela. In the 12th century King Lalibela is said to have called on divine intervention to build a second Jerusalem and the archangel Gabriel accordingly carved 11 churches out of rock in one night.

One of the places you will visit is Axum where, according to tradition, the Queen of Sheba returned to after her liaison with King Solomon in Jerusalem and where she gave birth to their son, Menelik. He founded the powerful Axumite dynasty which lasted for fifteen hundred years; the Axumites were converted to Christianity in the 4th century and the Christian tradition has been unbroken since then.

The tour will be led by Mike Street, an experienced expedition leader with Prospect Music and Art Tours, who has travelled extensively in Ethiopia.

PROSPECT

For further details from Prospect Music and Art Tours Limited call 0181-995 2151 or fax 0181-742 1969.

ITINERARY

Day 1 Fly from London on an overnight flight to Addis Ababa

Day 2 Visit Haile Selassie's palace, the National Museum and the traditional market

Day 3 Fly to Bahir Dar. In the afternoon make a trip to the source of the Blue Nile.

Day 4 In the morning visit the Tissisat Falls, often called "water that smokes". Free afternoon.

Day 5 Take a boat on Lake Tana to the Zeghi peninsula where the monastery of Ura Kidane Mehret has a collection of ancient illuminated bibles.

Day 6 Fly to Gondar, former capital of the Ethiopian empire. In the afternoon visit the castle and baths of King Fasilidas, set in parkland and dating from the 17th century.

Day 7 Visit the church of Debre Berhan Selassie, famous for its murals and Qusquam. Free afternoon.

Day 8 Fly to Lalibela in the remote mountains of Lasta to see the eleven churches carved out of rock.

Day 9 Visit Yemrehane Kristos, a remarkable monastery complex on a ridge overlooking Lalibela, which dates from the beginning of the 12th century.

Day 10 Fly to Axum for a two-night stay and see the tomb of King Basen, the palace of Dengur and in the Stellae Park, the 4th century obelisks of the first Axumite emperors.

Day 11 Visit the Axum Museum, the Church of St Mary of Zion which contains gold coronation crowns and what is reputed to be the Ark of the Covenant. In the afternoon travel to Yeha to see pre-Axumite ruins.

Day 12 Fly back to Addis Adaba and make a further tour of the city.

Day 13 Return flight to London.

HOW TO ENTER

Answer the following questions and post them to: The Times/Ethiopia Competition, 5 Brittons Court, London EC88 6NG. The closing date is Monday, October 16 1995.

1. How many churches did the Angel Gabriel build out of rock?

2. What is the former name of Ethiopia?

3. Menelik, the founder of the Axumite Dynasty, was the son of the Queen of Sheba, who was said to be his father?

The winner will be chosen at random from all the correct answers received. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

Leicester are wary of Slough backlash

By Alix Ramsay

AS THE first signs of weakness for many a long year begin to show in Slough, the women's hockey champions, the rest of the national league premier division teams are determined to make hay.

Leicester take on the stuttering champions next, but they are expecting no favours. Slough do most things in hockey very well, but losing is something they have never been particularly good at and Leicester are wary of taking too much for granted when Slough's pride has been hurt.

For Kevin Blanks, the Leicester manager, the key will be the performance of Karen Brown, Anna Bennett and Mandy Nicholls, Slough's Great Britain internationals, if they play in spite of heavy national training commitments. All three are named in the squad of 13, so at least one of them will have to turn out for the club — "but it is significant how well they play," Blanks said.

"When you are talking about players of that calibre, it makes a huge difference. Karen is such an important player to them, driving them from the midfield, and if you take away two international-class attacking players, then their firepower is greatly reduced."

Leicester have problems, too. They also have made a slow start — although with one point in the bag, they have more than Slough — and Blanks is concerned that his relatively young squad is still coming to terms with the rigours of the national league.

"We had most of the game but lost to Hightown and we had some of the game and were lucky to scrape a draw with Sutton," he said. "In both cases, it was a matter of concentration. On Saturday, it will all depend on how well we play in the first ten minutes and then stick to it from there. We have one of the youngest squads in the league, which bodes well for the future, but, at the moment, it is a question of matching up to our potential."

Cannock head pretenders

By Sydney Friskin

AS THE new hockey season gets under way today, the focus of attention will be not so much on Hounslow, Southgate and Havant, traditionally the leading clubs, but more on Cannock, Reading, Old Loughtonians and Guildford, all of whom gave notice last winter of better things to come.

While selection for the Olympic Games next year provides the individual incentive, the battle is also joined for places in the new league structure of 1996-97, when the number of clubs in the first division will be cut from 18 to 12. The other six will be added to the 18 in the second division.

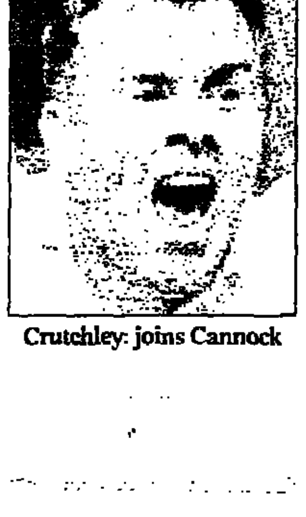
Cannock, who came close to winning the first division title last season, have replenished their stocks in attack and defence. They are joined by Robert Crutchley, a forward, from Hounslow, Andy Humphrey, a deep defender, from Hull, and Chris Ashcroft, a goalkeeper, from Neston.

Jason Lee and David Ralph, from East Grinstead, together with Matthew Sutton, from Bournville, have moved to Old Loughtonians, who, from next week, will be reinforced by Brian Feltham and Steve Carter, from Australia. They have, however, lost Neil Barker.

Mark Pearn, 18, who played for England in the recent Champions' Trophy, has moved from Glasgow City to Reading, where he is joined by Simon Mason, the England goalkeeper, from Firebrands. Charles Oscroft returns to Reading's midfield and Howard Hoskin rejoins his brother, Mark, in the forward line.

Guildford, having added Don Williams, from Havant, to their already sharp attack, have retained most of the players who helped them to win the Hockey Association Cup.

The action starts today when Old Loughtonians are at home to Bournville. Julian Halls will play for Old Loughtonians but will then be out of action for two weeks for a hernia operation. Havant, whose 2-2 draw with Cannock deprived them of the title last season, will entertain Cannock in what could be the best match tomorrow.



Crutchley: joins Cannock

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Murphy delighted with clearance to ride again

By Richard Evans, Racing Correspondent

DECLAN MURPHY has been granted permission to ride again 17 months after a horrendous fall at Haydock almost cost the talented jump jockey his life.

The decision to renew his riding licence was announced yesterday by Dr Michael Turner, the Jockey Club's chief medical officer, after consulting the specialists who have helped to nurse the jockey, 28, back to full fitness.

"Declan Murphy suffered a life-threatening head injury some 17 months ago from which he has now made an excellent recovery. I saw him for a medical review on October 4 and, after careful consideration of his current medical status and in the light of his most recent specialists review, I am delighted to agree his fitness for a return to jumping," Dr Turner said.

Murphy, who suffered his injuries when Arcot fell in a hurdle race at Haydock in May last year, was naturally elated by yesterday's development. "I have only just found out and I am absolutely delighted. I was always positive and thought I would come back, but to get through what I have gone through is absolutely wonderful.

"I am fit physically and mentally to ride but as I've only just heard the news I have no idea when my first ride will be. I have got to sit down and think about it."

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: PALO BLANCO
(4.15 York)
Next best: Drumcullen
(4.15 Bangor)

The stylish rider is stable jockey to Josh Gifford and the Findon trainer has always insisted the job was there for Murphy to return to if he regained a riding licence.

Murphy's desire to return to the cut and thrust of National Hunt racing is understandable but, having been at Haydock on the day of his fall, I must admit to having reservations about the wisdom of a comeback.

Although Murphy had fewer falls than the vast majority of his weighing room colleagues, tumbles are an unavoidable part of jump racing. Any time a jockey is thrown to the ground and, even worse, kicked by horses stampeding past him, there is an anxious wait to see if the rider is all right. In the case of Murphy, the delay before he gets to his feet after any tumble is going to seem interminable for jump racing supporters.

A year ago, the Hyperion Stakes was won by Celtic Swing by eight lengths and thus began a winter of dreams. There is no obvious potential superstar in this year's race, at Ascot this afternoon, but it will be no surprise if **Brandon Magic** runs out a convincing winner. The Ian Balding-trained colt has really blossomed during the past month, with victories at Pontefract and Salisbury, and should complete a quick treble today.

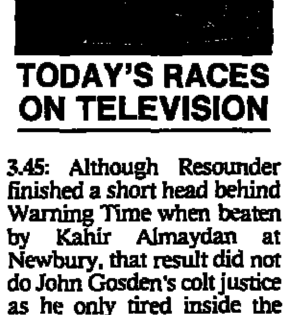
The National Hunt season is gradually getting into gear and my best news concerns **Drumcullen**, who makes his chasing debut in the Thelwall Memorial Trophy Novices' Chase (4.15) at Bangor.

A former Irish point-to-point winner, he had three runs over hurdles last season for Kim Bailey, but the big strapping horse has always been considered ideal for chasing and he can make a winning fencing debut.

On the same card, the concluding mares only bumper has attracted an above-average field. Queen Of Spades, trained by Nigel Twiston-Davies, is well regarded and won a similar race at Doncaster last term, but she may find it difficult giving weight away to **Supreme Lady**, who finished a good second at Worcester last term.

Chief Bee and John Durkan capture the Bollinger Champagne Challenge Series Final at Ascot yesterday

Spout to confirm Ascot superiority



TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

ASCOT
BBC1

1.45: Storm Trooper won his maiden by six lengths and should appreciate the going. However, this looks to be between Beauchamp King and Ramooz. Beauchamp King relished the step up to a mile when beating the Ben Hanbury-trained Matiya at Haydock last time. However, that form should mean Hanbury knows where he stands with **Ramooz**, who turned a nursery into a procession at Newbury three weeks ago.

2.15: The first four home in the Harvest Stakes here 13 days ago reoppose and it is difficult to see the form being reversed unless the ground turns really soft. **Spout** came from last to first to beat Saxon Maid and stayed on strongly to win going away.

3.50: I had been keen on Coastal Bluff, who ran a cracker at Newcastle ten days ago after a long lay-off, but his chance may have been washed away by the rain. When the going is soft, a draw near the stands rail is invariably an advantage, so expect a big run from **Macfarlane**, who is best on easy ground. Inherent Magic is another for the shortlist.

YORK
CHANNEL 4

3.15: Antartictern, who put up his best performance of the season when dropped into a seller last time, has every chance on that form but may find this company tougher. Noble Sprinter is open to improvement but must overcome a bad draw. In a wide open race, Mr **Rough** has sound claims after some good recent efforts. Well backed at Yarmouth last time, he just failed to land the gamble but should appreciate today's slightly longer trip.

3.45: Although Resounder finished a short head behind Warning Time when beaten by Kahir Almaydan at Newbury, that result did not do John Gosden's colt justice as he only tired inside the final 50 yards having been clear second best. Not totally discredited in the group one Middle Park Stakes nine days ago, **Resounder** can gain revenge here on his favoured fast ground.

4.15: David Barron, who runs two here, has good chances in both the big televised sprints. The improving Statius was far from discredited having been drawn on the wrong side in the Ayr Silver Cup. He looks sure to be thereabouts, but I marginally prefer **Palo Blanco** from what should be a favourable low stall. At Leicester last time after a three-month lay-off, he kept on nicely having been squeezed for room at the start.

4.45: Samah has done his connections proud, landing some mighty gambles this term, and is still fairly treated judged on his latest victory at Newmarket seven days ago. However, he will do well to follow up from his wide draw. Zajko travelled well for a long way before tiring here 13 days ago after a lengthy lay-off, but **Rossini Blue** narrowly gets the vote after three solid efforts.

Richard Evans

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9/1	Inherent Magic	20/1	Name The Tune
12/1	Bowden Rose	20/1	Saseedo
12/1	Call Me I'm Blue	20/1	Youdontsay
12/1	Lady Sheriff	25/1	Agwa
12/1	Macfarlane	25/1	Sir Joey
12/1	No Extras	25/1	Stolen Kiss
12/1	Twice As Sharp	33/1	Ann's Pearl
16/1	Fire Dome	33/1	Ashtina
16/1	Jayannpee	33/1	Lago Di Varano
16/1	Takadou	40/1	Seigneurial
20/1	Hello Mister	50/1	Chewit

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ASCOT

THUNDERER
1.45 Ramooz
2.15 Hagwah
2.50 Green Crusader
3.20 Mubhij
3.50 Coastal Bluff
4.25 Brandon Magic
5.00 **SHARP REBUFF** (nap)

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 2.15 **SPOUT.**

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 1.45 **STORM TROOPER** (nap). 2.50 Ball Gown.

GOING: SOFT DRAW: 5F-7F, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

1.45 ANGLO AFRICAN HOLDINGS AUTUMN STAKES

BBC1

(Listed race: 2-Y-O: £14,005: 1m rnd) (5 runners)

1	(4)	311	BEAUCHAMP KING 35 (D,F,G) (E Penser) J Dunlop 8-11	J Reid	96
2	(3)	22	BRIGHT HERITAGE 23 (J Guest) D Loder 8-11	G Carter	84
3	(2)	22211	RAMOOZ 22 (D,F,S) (H Salem) B Hanbury 8-11	W R Swinburn	⊞
4	(1)	521	STORM TROOPER 26 (D,S) (Fahd Salman) H Cecil 8-11	Pat Eddery	94
5	(5)	244116	LA MODISTE 7 (D,F) (Mrs G Smith) S Dow 8-6	T Quinn	88

BETTING: 13-8 Beauchamp King, 15-8 Ramooz, 100-30 Storm Trooper, 15-2 Bright Heritage, 16-1 La Modiste.

1994: PRESENTING 8-11 L Dettori (7-4 fav) J Gosden 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

BEAUCHAMP KING beat Matiya 3½l in 5-runner conditions race at Haydock (1m, good). On previous start beat Empeorpe by 4l in 5-runner maiden at Ayr (7f, good to firm). BRIGHT HERITAGE ½l 2nd of 8 to Danesman in maiden at Yarmouth (1m, good). RAMOOZ beat Sava River 5l in 15-runner nursery at Newbury (7f 64yd, good to soft). STORM TROOPER beat Dark Waters 6l in 20-runner maiden at Nottingham (1m, good to soft). LA MODISTE about 10l last of 6 to Ruznama in listed race at Newmarket (7f, good to firm). Previously beat Parrot Jungle 2½l in 4-runner conditions race at Bath (1m, hard).
Selection: BEAUCHAMP KING

2.15 PRINCESS ROYAL STAKES

BBC1

(Group III: fillies: 1m 4f) (6 runners)

1	(1)	116032	SAXON MAID 13 (D,F,S) (Sheikh Mohammed) L Cumani 4-9-0	W R Swinburn	95
2	(2)	222116	HAGWAH 13 (D,F) (A Ali) B Hanbury 3-8-6	M Roberts	93
3	(5)	141112	LABIBEH 49 (D,BF,F) (Hamdan Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 3-8-6	W Carson	79
4	(3)	2164	ROYAL CIRCLE 13 (F) (Cliveden Stud) R Charlton 3-8-6	K Darley	85
5	(4)	63-4053	SNOWTOWN 13 (F) (R Sangster) P Chapple-Hyam 3-8-6	J Reid	91
6	(6)	12-0131	SPOUT 13 (CD,G,S) (Lady Rothschild) R Charlton 3-8-6	Pat Eddery	⊞

BETTING: 15-8 Spout, 11-4 Saxon Maid, 100-30 Snowtown, 15-2 Hagwah, 10-1 Royal Circle, 16-1 Labibeh.

1994: DANCING BLOOM 4-9-0 W R Swinburn (100-30) M Stoute 7 ran

FORM FOCUS

SAXON MAID ½l and short-head 3rd of 8 to Noble Rose in group III Park Hill Stakes at Doncaster (1m 6f 132yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. HAGWAH beat Tinashaan 2½l in 5-runner listed race at Newmarket (1m 4f, good to firm) on penultimate start. LABIBEH 1¼l 2nd of 4 to Source Of Light in listed handicap at Chester (1m 5f 89yd, good to firm).
ROYAL CIRCLE best effort, beat Bequeath head in 7-runner maiden at Newmarket (1m 2f, good to firm). SNOWTOWN about 15l 5th of 8 to Larrocha in listed race at Newbury (1m 2f 6yd, good to firm) on penultimate start. SPOUT beat SAXON MAID 1¾l in 9-runner listed race at Ascot (1m 4f, good to soft) with SNOWTOWN (3lb worse off) ¾l 3rd, ROYAL CIRCLE (3lb worse off) 15l 4th and HAGWAH well beaten in rear.
Selection: SPOUT

2.50 MITRE RATED HANDICAP

(£12,556: 1m 2f) (15 runners)

1	(15)	201800	ALJAZZAF 7 (CD,F) (Y Y Partners) R Akehurst 5-9-7	M Hills	86
2	(11)	034130	HOH EXPRESS 7 (G) (D Allport) I Balding 3-9-0	W R Swinburn	90
3	(9)	101100	SPECIAL DAWN 21 (D,F,G,S) (Windflower) J Dunlop 5-8-11	Paul Eddery	91
4	(14)	136400	BURNING 11 (D,F) (K Dasmal) G Harwood 3-8-11	M Perrett	96
5	(3)	124220	ROKEBY BOWL 13 (D,G) (P Mellon) I Balding 3-8-10	D Griffiths (5)	98
6	(12)	3-30310	MYSTIC HILL 13 (D,F,S) (P Oppenheimer) R Charlton 4-8-9	T Quinn	94
7	(6)	0-64104	KORAMBI 55 (F) (B Voak) C Brittain 3-8-8	M Roberts	90
8	(5)	0-20210	QUANDARY 24 (F) (K Abdulla) H Cecil 4-8-7	Pat Eddery	⊞
9	(10)	0-65000	GREEN CRUSADER 21 (V,D,S) (Cheveley Park) M Stoute 4-8-7	J Reid	90
10	(1)	34P-100	SMART GENERATION 7 (D,G) (G Ward) Lord Huntingdon 4-8-7	M Henry (5)	89
11	(2)	304322	BALL GOWN 7 (D,F,G,S) (C Lines) D Thom 5-8-7	A Whelan (5)	95
12	(7)	0-06002	SERIOUS 14 (G) (Mrs D Haynes) Lady Herries 5-8-7	K Darley	91
13	(13)	2318-54	CAERPHILLY 358 (G) (H Al Maktoum) D Morley 3-8-5	W Carson	89
14	(8)	530245	HARDY DANCER 41 (F) (P Higson) G L Moore 3-8-2	P Robinson	93
15	(4)	00-3010	ROMIOS 87 (D,G,S) (C Shacolas) P Cole 3-8-1	C Rutter	87

Long handicap: Green Crusader 8-6, Smart Generation 8-4, Ball Gown 8-3, Serious 8-3.

BETTING: 4-1 Quandary, 7-1 Hoh Express, 8-1 Aljazzaf, Ball Gown, Mystic Hill, 10-1 Special Dawn, 12-1 others.

1994: ALJAZZAF 4-9-1 J Weaver (7-2 fav) R Akehurst 11 ran

3.20 WILLMOTT DIXON CORNWALLIS STAKES

(Group III: 2-Y-O: £22,295: 5f) (7 runners)

1	(7)	100220	EASTERN PROPHETS 23 (D,F,S) (Mrs J Purches) G Lewis 8-12	Paul Eddery	94
2	(1)	133212	MUBHIJ 28 (D,F,G) (H Al Maktoum) B Hills 8-12	W Carson	⊞
3	(5)	11020	SACRAMENTO 35 (B,D,F,G) B Tevels (Bel) 8-12	R Vindevogel	78
4	(6)	032133	THE MAN 10 (G) (Mrs A Ferguson) M Channon 8-12	Pat Eddery	82
5	(2)	111121	WESTCOURT MAGIC 23 (D,F,G) (K Hodgson) M W Easterby 8-12	J Reid	96
6	(3)	244142	KUNUCU 23 (D,F,G) (P Savill) T Barron 8-7	K Darley	98
7	(4)	441	OH WHATAKNIGHT 22 (D,G) (D Clee) R Whitaker 8-7	M Hills	86

BETTING: 2-1 Mubhij, 11-4 Westcourt Magic, 4-1 Kunucu, 8-1 Eastern Prophets, 10-1 others.

1994: MILLSTREAM 8-11 J Weaver (11-4) M Johnston 7 ran

3.50 WILLMOTT DIXON HANDICAP

BBC1

(£15,220: 5f) (24 runners)

1	(6)	403100	HELLO MISTER 7 (D,F,G,S) (B Misten) J O'Donoghue 4-9-12	P McCabe (3)	95
2	(10)	651420	NO EXTRAS 14 (D,F,G,S) (K Higson) G L Moore 5-9-10	S Whitworth	95
3	(7)	200002	FIRE DOME 7 (CD,G) (M Al-Shuaibi) R Hannon 3-9-5	J Reid	91
4	(18)	336400	JAYANNPEE 14 (D,F,G) (J Paniccia) I Balding 4-9-4	M Hills	95
5	(12)	02-8001	INHERENT MAGIC 7 (D,G,S) (Mrs D Whistanly) W Muir 6-9-1	Pat Eddery	95
6	(9)	235004	LAGO DI VARANO 12 (V,D,G,S) (N Jackson) J Berry 3-9-1	G Carter	92
7	(23)	301106	LORD HIGH ADMIRAL 25 (B,D,F,G,S) (Elite Racing) C Egerton 7-9-0	T Quinn	92
8	(13)	40536-R	SEIGNEURIAL 126 (D,G) (The PBT Group) G Harwood 3-8-13	A Clark	90
9	(19)	310100	NAME THE TUNE 21 (CD,F,G,S) (C Hammond) P Howling 4-8-13	Paul Eddery	93
10	(20)	060513	TAKADOU 7 (D,F,G,S) (F Tyldesley) Miss L Siddall 4-8-12	W R Swinburn	⊞
11	(15)	606044	CALL ME I'M BLUE 14 (CD,G,S) N Tinkler 5-8-12	W Newnes	92
12	(5)	006054	SASEEDO 8 (D,F,G) (S Fustok) W O'Gorman 5-8-11	Emma O'Gorman	93
13	(24)	015050	SIR JOEY 21 (D,F,S) (Mrs A Sims) P Murphy 6-8-8	J Williams	93
14	(8)	125631	BOWDEN ROSE 6 (B,D,F,G) (Lower Bowden) M Blanshard 3-8-8	M Baird (5)	96
15	(22)	015423	COASTAL BLUFF 10 (D,F) (Mrs D Sharp) T Barron 3-8-7	K Darley	94
16	(21)	213001	TWICE AS SHARP 10 (D,G) (Formula Twelve) P Harris 3-8-7	P Robinson	92
17	(16)	400000	ASHTINA 14 (CD,F,G,S) (Miss S Joyner) B Pearce 10-8-6	J Wilkinson (7)	96
18	(4)	441252	YOUDONTSAY 7 (F) (T Nicholls) R Curtis 3-8-5	P P Murphy (5)	95
19	(14)	122524	LADY SHERIFF 19 (B,D,F,G) (E Mangan) M W Easterby 4-8-3	W Carson	94
20	(11)	221255	CHEWIT 134 (G) (Ballard 1834 Ltd) A Moore 3-8-3	Candy Morris	86
21	(2)	002600	ANN'S PEARL 14 (D,F,S) (Mrs P Levinson) J Hills 4-8-1	M Henry (5)	92
22	(3)	303010	MACFARLANE 3 (D,G,S) (P F-Godley) M Fetherston-Godley 7-7-12	A Whelan (5)	90
23	(17)	255230	STOLEN KISS 10 (B,D,F) (ROM Racing) M W Easterby 3-7-9	Martin Dwyer (7)	92
24	(1)	320600	AGWA 28 (F,G) (I Baker) R O'Sullivan 6-7-9	N Varley (3)	98

BETTING: 7-1 Coastal Bluff, 8-1 Inherent Magic, 12-1 Call Me I'm Blue, Lady Sheriff, Macfarlane, Twice As Sharp, 14-1 Bowden Rose, 16-1 Fire Dome, No Extras, Stolen Kiss, Takadou, 20-1 others.

1994: CAPE MERINO 3-9-3 B Thomson (12-1) D Chappell 23 ran

FORM FOCUS

HELLO MISTER best effort, beat Bold Effort 3½l in Tote-Portland Handicap at Doncaster (5f 140yd, good to firm) with CALL ME I'M BLUE (12lb better off) 1½l 4th, and NAME THE TUNE (11lb better off) 3½l 10th and JAYANNPEE (13lb better off) ½l 9th, INHERENT MAGIC (11lb better off) 2l 18th and LORD HIGH ADMIRAL (13lb better off) 5l 21st. NO EXTRAS neck 2nd of 29 to Royale Figurine in Ladbrokes Ayr Gold Cup (6f, good) with FIRE DOME (9lb better off) 6¼l 12th, NAME THE TUNE (6lb better off) 3½l 17th and SIR JOEY (6lb better off) 2l 20th on penultimate start. INHERENT MAGIC beat FIRE DOME (5lb worse off) head in 6-runner conditions race at Haydock (5f, soft) with TAKADOU (8lb better off) 4l 3rd. NAME THE TUNE best effort, beat Ooz Time 1l in 9-runner handicap at Sandown (5f, good to firm). CALL ME I'M BLUE 3¾l 4th of 13 to Spaniards Close in 13-runner handicap over course and distance (good) with SASEEDO (2lb worse off) neck 5th. BOWDEN ROSE beat Dominelle 2l in 12-runner handicap at Brighton (5f 59yd, good). TWICE AS SHARP beat Here Comes A Star neck in 20-runner handicap at Newcastle (5f, good) with COASTAL BLUFF (2lb better off) neck 3rd. MACFARLANE beat Indiahra ½l in 13-runner handicap at Chester (5f, good to soft) with TAKADOU (3lb worse off) 1¾l 5th.
Selection: CALL ME I'M BLUE (nap)

4.25 HYPERION CONDITIONS STAKES (2-Y-O: £7,283: 7f) (6 runners)

1	(6)	1620	KUANTAR 8 (C,F) (Sultan Ahmad Shah) P Cole 9-1	T Quinn	95
2	(1)	110220	PRINCE ASLIA 28 (F) (Mrs R Daniels) M Johnston 9-1	M Roberts	93
3	(5)	310	WHAT FUN 109 (F) (Noodles Racing) R Hannon 9-1	J Reid	87
4	(3)	3211	BRANDON MAGIC 10 (G,S) (R Michaelson) I Balding 8-13	W R Swinburn	⊞
5	(4)	402	HENRY THE FIFTH 17 (A Richards) C Brittain 8-11	K Darley	88
6	(2)	203631	OBERONS BOY 11 (D,G) (E Whitfield) B Meehan 8-11	Pat Eddery	99

BETTING: 7-4 Brandon Magic, 5-2 Prince Aslia, 5-1 Kuantar, 7-1 Oberons Boy, 8-1 What Fun, Henry The Fifth.

1994: CELTIC SWING 8-11 K Darley (11-8 fav) Lady Herries 6 ran

5.00 DUKE OF EDINBURGH HANDICAP (£11,918: 1m rnd) (23 runners)

1	(6)	010464	TOUJOURS RIVIERA 13 (CD,F,G) (J Furlong) J Pearce 5-10-0	N Varley (3)	95
2	(14)	013021	NIGHT DANCE 14 (C,F,G) (G Wright) G Lewis 3-10-0	A Whelan (5)	96
3	(10)	15040/0	FROGMARCH 21 (D,S) (Lord Chelsea) W Hern 5-9-13	Paul Eddery	–
4	(2)	413200	AMRAK AJEEB 7 (F,G) (A Merza) B Hanbury 3-9-9	M Rimmer	96
5	(1)	112-650	FLAG FEN 41 (G,S) (Ladyswood Racing) M Meade 4-9-8	V Slattery	–
6	(9)	0-10400	STAR MANAGER 21 (D,G,S) (M Arbib) P Cole 5-9-6	T Quinn	93
7	(11)	222153	SHARP REBUFF 22 (D,G) (D Allen) P Makin 4-9-4	K Darley	93
8	(21)	01	TARAWA 22 (D,S) (Mrs J Callaghan) N Callaghan 3-9-4	M Davies (7)	94
9	(12)	0-00120	MISTER RM 14 (G) (RM Partners) R Guest 3-9-3	W Carson	96
10	(5)	2440-03	EVER SO LYRICAL 99 (D,F,G) (Pendley Punters) P Harris 5-9-2	W R Swinburn	93
11	(4)	622121	CONSPICUOUS 29 (F,G) (Mrs J Hopkins) L Cottrell 5-9-2	M Roberts	98
12	(23)	612004	EUROLINK THE REBEL 16 (D,F) (Eurolink Group) R Akehurst 3-9-1	Pat Eddery	96
13	(13)	010410	SHARP 'N SMART 17 (F,G) (K Burks) B Smart 3-9-1	W Newnes	⊞
14	(22)	1-04350	QUINTUS DECIMUS 14 (S) (Pavilyone Ltd) Lord Huntingdon 3-9-0	M Hills	90
15	(16)	395050	HELIOS 25 (F,S) (Mrs C Painting) N Walker 7-8-12	G Carter	98
16	(18)	550600	GADGE 7 (V,D,S) (J R Lessore) D Morris 4-8-10	R Price	95
17	(15)	0410-66	RED LIGHT 6 (V,BF,S) (R Van Gelder) Lord Huntingdon 3-8-9	J Reid	92
18	(17)	600504	JUST HARRY 10 (D,F,G) (M Ryan) M Ryan 4-8-7	A Clark	96
19	(20)	062000	KINGCHIP BOY 13 (V,D,F,G) (Four Jays Partners) M Ryan 6-8-6	D Biggs	98
20	(7)	16-0000	GREEN CITY 77 (F) (P Crane) J Akehurst 3-8-4	S Whitworth	97
21	(3)	00-0420	CRESTED KNIGHT 80 (Mrs B Sumner) C Horgan 3-8-3	C Rutter	92
22	(8)	540312	DUELLO 10 (D,S) (H Promotions Ltd) M Blanshard 4-8-3	M Baird (5)	95
23	(19)	603002	SPECTACLE JIM 53 (B,G) (J Harrow) J O'Donoghue 6-7-7	N Carlisle	87

Long handicap: Spectacle Jim 7-3

BETTING: 7-1 Conspicuous, 8-1 Night Dance, 9-1 Toujours Riviera, 10-1 Tarawa, 12-1 Eurolink The Rebel, Ever So Lyrical, Sharp Rebuff, 14-1 others.

1994: TOUJOURS RIVIERA 4-8-4 S Lanigan (14-1) J Pearce 21 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
Lady Herries	6	26	23.1	Pat Eddery	35	242	14.5
J Dunlop	23	124	18.5	W Carson	35	247	14.2
P Makin	4	22	18.2	M Roberts	25	226	11.1
H Cecil	17	95	17.9	W R Swinburn	21	200	10.5
W Hern	4	23	17.4	J Reid	20	200	10.0

YORK

THUNDERER
2.15 Floating Line
2.45 Committal
3.15 Guesstimation
3.45 Warning Time
4.15 How's Yer Father
4.45 Zajko
5.15 Bullfinch

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.45 Committal.

GOING: GOOD DRAW: 6F, LOW NUMBERS BEST SIS

2.15 BRAMHAM MOOR HANDICAP

(£7,635: 1m 5f 194yd) (13 runners)

101	(3)	431514	PERSIAN ELITE 11 (F,G) (Elite Racing Club) P Cole 4-10-0	Dane O'Neill (5)	94
102	(11)	215250	MIDYAN BLUE 21 (CD,G) (K Palmer) J Eustace 5-9-9	R Cochrane	98
103	(1)	210444	STAR RAGE 4 (F,G) (J Abell) M Johnston 5-9-9	J Weaver	98
104	(8)	103203	TUDOR ISLAND 31 (D,F,G) (D Sieff) C Brittain 6-9-6	L Dettori	95
105	(6)	211223	SOBA UP 49 (F,S) (Mrs M Hills) T Etherington 5-9-6	A Culhane	⊞
106	(2)	0-31234	HANIYA 15 (F) (H Al Maktoum) J Dunlop 3-9-5	R Hills	93
107	(10)	024522	GOOD HAND 22 (F,G) (Mrs M Haggas) J Watts 9-9-5	N Connorton	97
108	(5)	164521	FLOATING LINE 8 (D,F,G,S) (G Lowe) E Alston 7-8-11	J Carroll	95
109	(12)	114200	SHAKIYR 15 (G) (L & R Roadlines) R Hollinshead 4-8-5	W Ryan	90
110	(13)	111236	FAUGERON 38 (D,F,G,S) (Elite Racing Club) N Tinkler 6-8-4	Kim Tinkler	97
111	(7)	111124	NANTON POINT 23 (D,BF,F,G) (L Lazarus) Lady Herries 3-8-3	D Harrison	93
112	(4)	551334	EAU DE COLOGNE 23 (F) (G Reed) C Thornton 3-8-3	D McKeown	95
113	(9)	013022	AMIARGE 7 (F) (Miss D Woods) M Brittain 5-7-7	D Wright (3)	83

Long handicap: Amiarge 6-12.

BETTING: 9-2 Tudor Island, 5-1 Floating Line, 6-1 Haniya, Soba Up, 8-1 Midyan Blue, Persian Elite, 10-1 Nanton Point, Star Rage, 12-1 Good Hand, 14-1 others.

1994: FIRST BID 7-8-4 A Culhane (14-1) R Whitaker 16 ran

2.45 COLDSTREAM GUARDS ASSOCIATION CUP MAIDEN STAKES

(2-Y-O: £6,108: 7f 202yd) (8 runners)

201	(5)	3	ANCHOR VENTURE 35 (F Chao) S Woods 9-0	W Woods	74
202	(4)		BLUEBEARD (Lord Hartington) J Gosden 9-0	J Carroll	–
203	(7)	32	COMMITTAL 11 (BF) (Sheikh Mohammed) J Gosden 9-0	L Dettori	⊞
204	(8)	4	KARISMA 23 (D Roper) Denys Smith 9-0	T Williams	82
205	(3)		PRIVATE AUDIENCE (K Abdulla) H Cecil 9-0	W Ryan	–
206	(1)		RUSK (Mrs J Conway) J Pearce 9-0	M Wigham	–
207	(6)	0	WHITLEY GRANGE BOY 29 (Mrs C Sykes) J Eyre 9-0	R Lappin	77
208	(2)	54	SILVER WING 14 (Cheveley Park Stud) M Bell 8-9	M Fenton	93

BETTING: 2-1 Committal, 5-2 Private Audience, 7-2 Bluebeard, 6-1 Silver Wing, 8-1 Karisma, 12-1 others.

1994: DUCK'S CASTLE 8-8 M Fenton (11-2) M Bell 10 ran

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS	Wins	Rnrs	%	JOCKEYS	Winners	Rides	%
J Gosden	34	126	27.0	L Dettori	40	208	19.2
H Cecil	28	109	25.7	W Ryan	16	95	16.8
Lady Herries	6	26	23.1	M Fenton	3	29	10.3
R Akehurst	4	19	21.1	Only qualifiers			
P Cole	16	81	19.8				
J Eyre	4	21	19.0				

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RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Leicester (2.00), Sedgefield (2.15).

TUESDAY: Chepstow (2.15), Leicester (2.00).

WEDNESDAY: Haydock Park (2.00), Exeter (2.10), Wetherby (2.20).

THURSDAY: **Newmarket** (C4, 1.30), **Redcar** (C4, 1.45), Taunton (2.15).

FRIDAY: Catterick Bridge (2.15), **Newmarket** (C4, 1.30), Ludlow (1.50).

SATURDAY: Catterick Bridge (2.05), **Newmarket** (C4, 1.45), **Wolverhampton** (AW, 7.00), Kelso (2.00), Kempton Park (2.15), Stratford (2.25).

Flat meetings in bold

GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

103 (12) 0-0432 GOOD TIMES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 .. B West (4) 88

Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Six-figure form (F — fell. P — pulled up. U — unseated rider. B — brought down. S — slipped up. R — refused. D — disqualified). Horse's name. Days since last outing: J if jumps, F if flat. (B — blinkers. V — visor. H — hood. E — Eyeshield. C — course winner. D — distance winner. CD — course and distance winner. BF — beaten favourite in latest race). Going on which horse has won (F — firm, good to firm, hard. G — good. S — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets. Trainer. Age and weight. Rider plus any allowance. The Times Private Handicapper's rating.

3.15 CROWTHER HOMES HANDICAP

C4

(£11,580: 1m 205yd) (26 runners)

301	(4)	001000	SECRET ALY 7 (F,G) (B Voak) C Brittain 5-10-0	M Birch	92
302	(14)	00-5550	NIZAAL 394 (G,S) (S Aitken) D Nicholls 4-10-0	J Carroll	87
303	(18)	2-40505	RORY 77 (D,F,G) (Mrs J Cecil) Mrs J Cecil 4-9-12	Amanda Sanders (7)	87
304	(7)	130220	QUIVIRA 24 (V,F,G) (M Kirby) T Clement 4-9-11	R Hills	90
305	(26)	221600	PRIDE OF PENDLE 7 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs L Miller) D Nicholls 6-9-11	Alex Greaves	96
306	(25)	314-023	NOBLE SPRINTER 15 (F) (Khanmaher) R Hannon 3-9-8	L Dettori	91
307	(20)	0-30131	ACCESS ADVENTURER 49 (F,G) (Miss E Williams) R Boss 4-9-7	W Ryan	90
308	(5)	006320	CYRUS THE GREAT 8 (F) (W Jackson) M Bell 3-9-6	M Fenton	93
309	(21)	024315	DOROTHEA BROOKE 25 (BF,G) (Mrs P Harris) P Harris 3-9-4	J Weaver	98
310	(19)	00-2133	COUREUR 92 (D,BF,F,G) (R Gibbons) J Bethell 6-9-1	T Ives	90
311	(6)	413241	GUESSTIMATION 11 (D,F,G,S) (Quintet Plnrs) J Pearce 6-9-0	S Drowne (3)	93
312	(15)	2-31065	TRANQUILLITY 66 (G) (Lord Carnarvon) Lord Huntingdon 3-8-13	D Harrison	95
313	(10)	320262	MR ROUGH 24 (BF,F) (R Akehurst) D Morris 4-8-13	R Cochrane	95
314	(17)	006610	PRIZEFIGHTER 51 (F,G) (Diamond Racing Ltd) J Eyre 4-8-13	J Tate	88
315	(24)	530560	WENTBRIDGE LAD 3 (V,D,F,G,S) (J Pugh) P Evans 5-8-11	S Sanders	93
316	(9)	032463	SEVENTEENS LUCKY 5 (D Cameron) Bob Jones 3-8-10	M Wigham	95
317	(23)	110000	CARLITO BRIGANTE 7 (D,F) (B Hathaway) Mrs J Ramsden 3-8-8	J F Egan	98
318	(22)	521005	THALEROS 13 (F,G) (M Gleason) G Moore 5-8-3	Dale Gibson	90
319	(1)	444120	THATCHED 13 (F) (J Garbutt) R Barr 5-8-3	P Fessey (5)	⊞
320	(3)	013500	OUR MAIN MAN 19 (F) (C Cooke) R Whitaker 5-8-0	D Wright (3)	93
321	(12)	102140	WESTCOURT PRINCESS 7 (F,G) (K Hodgson) M W Easterby 3-7-10	T Williams	98
322	(2)	000630	BALLARD RING 14 (C,F) (J Pickard) J Wainwright 4-7-9	L Charnock	92
323	(8)	532602	ANTARTICTERN 14 (D,F,G) (W Imison) G Oldroyd 5-7-8	A Mackay	96
324	(13)	323634	NOBBY BARNES 38 (D,F,G) (E Incisa) E Incisa 6-7-7	Kim Tinkler	87
325	(16)	060058	KEEP BATTLING 12 (F) (J Goldie) J Goldie 5-7-7	R Mullen (7)	85
326	(11)	0456/00-	LORD LAMBSON 523 (I Hall) J Pearce 6-7-7	J Lowe	–

Long handicap: Nobby Barnes 7-3, Keep Battling 7-1, Lord Lambson 7-0.

BETTING: 8-1 Noble Sprinter, 12-1 Dorothea Brooke, Guesstimation, Nizaal, Pride Of Pendle, 14-1 Access Adventurer, Cyrus The Great, Mr Rough, 16-1 Carlito Brigante, Coureur, Seventeens Lucky, Westcourt Princess, 20-1 Antarcticrn, Ballard Ring, Prizefighter, Rory, Secret Aly, Thatched, Tranquility, 25-1 others.

1994: MASTER BEVELED 4-8-12 J Stack (10-1) P Evans 22 ran

FORM FOCUS

NOBLE SPRINTER 1l and neck 3rd of 18 to Wilcuma in handicap at Haydock (1m, good) with WENTBRIDGE LAD (3lb better off) 14½l 13th and CARLITO BRIGANTE (8lb better off) 4l 14th. ACCESS ADVENTURER beat Wayfarers Way ¾l in 12-runner amateur riders' rated stakes at Sandown (1m 2f, good to firm). DOROTHEA BROOKE beat Ottavia Farnesse 9l in 7-runner maiden at Epsom (1m 114yd, good) on penultimate start. COUREUR 1l and neck 3rd of 10 to Murphy's Gold in handicap at Beverley (1m 100yd, good to firm). GUESSTIMATION beat CYRUS THE GREAT (1lb better off) neck in 19-runner apprentices handicap at Newmarket (1m 2f, good). MR ROUGH 2½l 2nd of 14 to Confronter in handicap at Yarmouth (1m, good). SEVENTEENS LUCKY 2l 3rd of 15 to Shinerolla in handicap at Pontefract (1m, good to firm). ANTARTICTERN 1¾l 2nd of 17 to Bobanlyn in selling handicap at Redcar (1m 2f, good). NOBBY BARNES about 2¼l 4th of 11 to Chairmans Choice in handicap at York (1m, good to firm).
Selection: NOBLE SPRINTER

3.45 EAST COAST ROCKINGHAM STAKES

C4

(Listed race. 2-Y-O: £10,114: 6f) (5 runners)

401	(4)	01245	RESOUNDER 8 (D,F) (H Allen) J Gosden 8-11	L Dettori	98
402	(5)	563253	TADEO 23 (F) (J Good) M Johnston 8-11	J Weaver	97
403	(3)	016	TRUANCY 8 (D,F) (Cheveley Park Stud) M Bell 8-11	M Fenton	91
404	(1)	1613	WARNING TIME 21 (D,F,G) (F Wilson) B Meehan 8-11	J F Egan	⊞
405	(2)	412303	BEAUTIFUL BALLAD 23 (G) (K Al-Said) B Hills 8-6	R Hills	90

BETTING: 2-1 Resounder, 11-4 Warning Time, 3-1 Tadeo, 7-2 Beautiful Ballad, 12-1 Truancy.

1994: SUMOQUINN 8-11 R Hughes (11-2) M Channon 5 ran

FORM FOCUS

RESOUNDER 9l last of 5 to Royal Applause in group I Middle Park Stakes at Newmarket (6f, good). TADEO 4l 3rd of 13 to Westcourt Magic in listed race at Ayr (5f, good). TRUANCY 8½l 6th of 8 to Even Top in listed race at Newmarket (7f, good). WARNING TIME 6l and head 3rd of 6 to Kahir Almaydan in the group II Mill Reef Stakes at Newbury (6f, good to soft) with RESOUNDER short-head 4th. BEAUTIFUL BALLAD neck and 2½l 3rd of 6 to Anthelia in conditions race at Yarmouth (6f, good).
Selection: RESOUNDER

Blinkered first time

ASCOT: 3.50 Lago Di Varano, 5.00 Gadge, Red Light. WORCESTER: 2.25 Always Alex, Fairy Park. YORK: 3.15 Quivira.

4.15 CORAL SPRINT TROPHY

C4

(Handicap: £18,130: 6f) (23 runners)

501	(15)	100200	BOLD EFFORT 14 (CD,F,G) (A Richards) K Cunningham-Brown 3-9-13	J Weaver	93
502	(7)	004135	CROESO-I-CYMRU 8 (B,BF,F,G) (Mrs R Evans) R Akehurst 4-9-7	S Sanders	93
503	(16)	000602	SHAMANIC 31 (D,F,G) (R Russell) R Hannon 3-9-7	Dane O'Neill (5)	93
504	(23)	042000	LORD OLIVIER 21 (D,F,G) (Miss V Jarvis) W Jarvis 5-9-6	J Stack (3)	92
505	(2)	416006	ZIGGY'S DANCER 7 (D,F,G) (J Barry) E Alston 4-9-5	J Carroll	92
506	(1)	201540	MASTER OF PASSION 14 (D,F,G,S) (M Kwei) J Eustace 6-9-3	M Tebbutt	95
507	(6)	101360	PERRYSTON VIEW 21 (V,D,F,G,S) (Mrs J MacPherson) P Calver 3-9-2	M Birch	91
508	(9)	100010	CHAMPAGNE GRANDY 15 (D,F,G,S) (Grandy Girls) M Channon 5-9-0	R Painter (3)	94
509	(13)	302000	HOW'S YER FATHER 7 (CD,F,G,S) (Unity Ltd) R Hodges 9-8-12	R Cochrane	93
510	(11)	206240	BENZOE 21 (CD,F,S) (T Fawcett) Mrs J Ramsden 5-8-11	J F Egan	98
511	(20)	505003	HIGHBORN 15 (D,F,G) (Yorkshire Racing Club 1990) P Felgate 6-8-11	W Ryan	93
512	(19)	124156	DOUBLE BOUNCE 7 (D,F,G) (Mrs P Scott-Dunn) P Makin 5-8-8	L Dettori	⊞
513	(12)	303131	BRECONGILL LAD 61 (B,D,F,G) (Three Horse Shoes) Miss S Hall 3-8-8	W Woods	90
514	(21)	281240	STATIUS 21 (D,F) (A Gowie) T Barron 3-8-5	D McKeown	93
515	(17)	201204	SAMSOLOM 42 (D,F,G) (C Hammond) P Howling 7-8-4	J Tate	93
516	(4)	1-50000	LYNTON LAD 6 (D,G) (Uplands Bloodstock) C Brooks 3-8-4	D Harrison	90
517	(18)	600009	AMRON 6 (D,F,G,S) (R Peebles) J Berry 8-8-4	P Fessey (5)	95
518	(3)	023-456	PALO BLANCO 19 (F,G) (J Brown) T Barron 4-8-3	L Charnock	94
519	(22)	206202	COLWAY RAKE 21 (B,D,G,S) (R Coleman) J Watts 4-8-2	N Connorton	96
520	(5)	3-64343	LATCHING 9 (A Pye-Jeary) R Johnson Houghton 3-8-2	R Hills	90
521	(10)	310450	OGGI 6 (B,D,G) (Skyline Racing Ltd) P Makin 4-7-12	J Lowe	94
522	(8)	343314	MASTER MILLFIELD 4 (D,F,G) (C Hill) R Hodges 3-7-12	S Davies	92
523	(14)	000040	ENCORE M'LADY 37 (CD,F) (F Lee) F Lee 4-7-12	A Mackay	85

BETTING: 6-1 Double Bounce, 8-1 Benzoe, 12-1 Perryston View, Statius, 14-1 Croeso-I-Cymru, Master Of Passion, Palo Blanco, 16-1 Bold Effort, Brecongill Lad, Champagne Grandy, Latching, 20-1 others.

1994: ASTRAC 3-8-3 S Sanders (14-1) R Akehurst 21 ran

FORM FOCUS

CROESO-I-CYMRU 1¾l 5th of 12 to Doctor's Glory in handicap at Newmarket (6f, good). MASTER OF PASSION 1¾l 4th to Royale Figurine in Ayr Gold Cup (6f, good) with BENZOE (3lb better off) 3¾l 7th, BOLD EFFORT (1lb worse) ½l 8th, PERRYSTON VIEW (2lb better) 4l 13th, AMRON (11lb better) ½l 15th and LORD OLIVIER (3lb better) 6l 23rd. DOUBLE BOUNCE 2l 6th to Samah in handicap at Newmarket (7f, good to firm) with HOW'S YER FATHER (2lb better) 13l 24th. COLWAY RAKE 1l 2nd to Keston Pond in Ayr Silver Cup (6f, good) with DOUBLE BOUNCE (2lb worse) 1½l 5th and STATIUS 4¼l 11th.
Selection: DOUBLE BOUNCE

4.45 NAPOLEONS CASINO HANDICAP

C4

(£10,644: 6f 214yd) (23 runners)

601	(23)	301000	ERTLON 14 (C,D,F,G) (C Brittain) C Brittain 5-10-0	R Hills	89
602	(14)	006420	SAGEBRUSH ROLLER 7 (D,F,G,S) (A Collins) J Watts 7-9-11	N Connorton	98
603	(20)	465000	FRENCH GRIT 10 (F) (C Wilson) M Dods 3-9-11	W Woods	95
604	(2)	016120	SOMERTON BOY 14 (D,F,G) (Mrs J MacPherson) P Calver 5-9-10	M Birch	⊞
605	(16)	512100	KING RAT 6 (D,F,G) (P Daniels) T Etherington 4-9-9	T Ives	97
606	(21)	100001	SAMAH 7 (CD,F) (S Aitken) D Nicholls 5-9-8	Alex Greaves	96
607	(10)	025013	COMANCHE COMPANION 13 (D,F,G,S) (Allstars) T Naughton 5-9-8	J D Smith (5)	96
608	(5)	10-0100	ZAJKO 13 (C,F) (Sir R Gibbs) Lady Herries 5-9-6	R Cochrane	91
609	(17)	123300	ALLINSON'S MATE 30 (B,CD,F,G) (P Jones) T Barron 7-9-7	D McKeown	97
610	(13)	411240	KNOBBLEENEEZE 7 (V,D,F,G,S) (A Andrews) M Channon 5-9-7	R Painter (3)	97
611	(19)	610610	JOLTO 32 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs G Gooderham) K Cunningham-Brown 6-9-5	J Weaver	96
612	(22)	165138	PARLIAMENT PIECE 15 (CD,F,G) (G Fawdon) D Nicholls 9-9-5	M Tebbutt	94
613	(9)	003332	ROSSINI BLUE 15 (F) (R Flood Bloodstock Ltd) Mrs J Ramsden 4-9-2	J F Egan	96
614	(7)	015130	HALMANERROR 7 (CD,F,G,S) (Mrs J Smith) Mrs J Ramsden 5-9-2	D Harrison	98
615	(8)	050440	CUMBRIAN WALTZER 6 (C,F,G,S) (Cumbrian) M H Easterby 10-9-2	L Newton (5)	98
616	(3)	00-0000	STEPHENSONS ROCKET 21 (F,G,S) (J Stephenson Ltd) J Berry 4-9-1	J Carroll	87
617	(11)	250400	NAPOLEON STAR 17 (F) (Napoleon's Racing) M Saunders 4-8-13	S Drowne (3)	96
618	(4)	130435	PELLEMAN 32 (BF,F) (M Berger) R Boss 3-8-11	W Ryan	95
619	(18)	150142	BROUGHTONS TURMOIL 7 (D,F,G) (B & Westwood) W Musson 6-8-10	L Dettori	98
620	(1)	305000	BARREL OF HOPE 14 (B,D,G) (P Watson) J Eyre 3-8-9	S D Williams	95
621	(12)	020505	OCHOS RIOS 15 (D,F,G,S) (Mrs H Bern) B Rothwell 4-8-5	L Charnock	97
622	(15)	100000	JUST DISSIDENT 21 (F) (Mrs C Hodgetts) R Whitaker 3-8-5	A Culhane	95
623	(6)	064011	DENSBEN 15 (C,F,G,S) (Mrs J Pike) Denys Smith 11-7-13	T Williams	98

BETTING: 8-1 Samah, 9-1 Comanche Companion, 10-1 Rossini Blue, Broughtons Turmoil, 12-1 Ertlon, Zajko, 14-1 Allinson's Mate, Jolto, Pelleman, 16-1 Densben, Sagebrush Roller, 20-1 others.

1994: HALMANERROR 4-8-8 J Fanning (14-1) Mrs J Ramsden 27 ran

FORM FOCUS

SOMERTON BOY 1¾l 2nd to Western Fame in handicap at Newcastle (7f, good) with HALMANERROR (3lb better off) 1½l 3rd, KNOBBLEENEEZE (3lb worse off) ½l 4th and ALLINSON'S MATE (4lb better off) 2¾l 8th. SAMAH beat BROUGHTONS TURMOIL (1lb better off) neck in handicap at Newmarket (7f, good to firm) with SAGEBRUSH ROLLER (4lb better off) 8¼l 15th. COMANCHE COMPANION ½l 3rd to Mo-Addab in handicap at Ascot (1m, soft) with ZAJKO (3lb better off) 6l 8th. ROSSINI BLUE head 2nd to Kid Ory in handicap at Redcar (7f, good) with OCHOS RIOS (4lb better off) 5¾l 5th.
Selection: COMANCHE COMPANION

5.15 STAMFORD BRIDGE CONDITIONS STAKES

(2-Y-O colts and geldings: £5,376: 6f 214yd) (4 runners)

1	(2)	3821	TRIA KEMATA 19 (D,S) (Hammarte Stud) J Dunlop 9-0	R Cochrane	94
2	(4)	34210	SUALTACH 96 (F) (N Sweeney) R Hollinshead 8-12	L Dettori	88
3	(3)	1545	BELIEVE ME 19 (F) (B Adams) R Hannon 8-9	Dane O'Neill (5)	94
4	(1)	16	BULLFINCH 19 (D,F) (R Cooper) P Walwyn 8-9	D Harrison	⊞

BETTING: 5-4 Tria Kemata, 2-1 Believe Me, 3-1 Bullfinch, 10-1 Sualtach.

1994: MUBAAJA 8-11 R Hills (7-2) P Walwyn 3 ran

[هكذا من الأصل]

Morrison brands British rival a scared fighter

Fifth round frailty offers Lewis scope for triumph

FROM SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT, IN ATLANTIC CITY

LENNOX LEWIS faces the most important contest of his career here tonight. The former World Boxing Council (WBC) champion has to beat Tommy Morrison in a 12-round non-title bout if he wants to regain his world championship from Frank Bruno and then prove he is really the best in the world by defeating Riddick Bowe and Mike Tyson.

If he loses to Morrison, he will have "nowhere to go", as Frank Maloney, his manager, said. "The loser might as well walk out on that beach and keep on walking out to sea."

Morrison rejects Maloney's view, having himself returned after defeats by mediocrities like Ray Mercer and Michael Bentt. Morrison rightly points out that "a heavyweight is only one punch away from redemption", but Maloney's hyperbole underlines the position Lewis could find himself in were he to suffer a crushing defeat by Morrison. The Englishman is so much superior to Morrison, just as he was to Oliver McCall, who stopped him in two rounds, that another humiliation could prove too much for Lewis.

The outcome depends on whether Lewis picks the right strategy to deal with Morrison, who boxes out of a crouch, is quick and carries one of the best left hooks in the division. The man from Oklahoma, however, does not have the soundest of chins, having had to get up off the floor to win in two of his last five contests.

Emanuel Steward, Lewis's trainer, wants him to stamp out Morrison's aggression early by taking the bout to his incoming opponent. Having shortened Lewis's big right and improved his balance, Steward clearly believes that there is little chance of Lewis lurching onto a knockout punch as he did against McCall.

Lewis, though, is by nature a cautious counter-puncher and Steward is not sure what he will do when Morrison charges at him. "I wish I knew what Lennox was going to do in there; be a counter-puncher or earn his respect quickly like I want him to," he said.

It is going to be interesting to see which course of action Lewis takes: the aggressive one that will earn him the respect of his critics, or the tentative one that will have everyone screaming: "He's gun-shy!" It would be marvellous if Lewis does reveal the kind of attacking skills that Steward is saying that he has mastered. "No heavyweight can last more than eight rounds with Lennox," Steward said. "Tyson would be knocked out in two rounds at this time."

Does Steward really mean what he says, or is he simply trying to encourage Lewis to be positive?

Lewis should not be concerned about what the critics may or may not say about his performance. He should box as he wants to to reach his goals. He has so much potential that he should do everything necessary to preserve himself for the bouts against Bowe and Tyson. It would be a pity to see him drop out of contention by trying to please his critics now.

Going by his performance against Lionel Butler and Justin Fortune, who was rated No 180 in the world, it is difficult to see Lewis meeting Morrison head-on. Almost certainly, Lewis will resort to backing out of range and tying Morrison up until his aggression has been blunted. He knocked out Fortune with three uppercuts in a row. No doubt that punch will be very much in evidence tonight.

If Lewis takes the contest to Morrison without laying himself open to the left hook, he could knock Morrison out in the first round; but it is more likely that Lewis will take his time and dispose of him by the fourth or fifth, when Morrison usually starts to flag.

Tommy Virgets, Morrison's trainer, said: "We have never won a fifth round. Is that scary, or what? When Tommy goes out for the fifth, I cringe. Tommy fell apart in the fifth against Mercer and, when the fifth comes round, he begins to think more about his stamina than the man he is fighting."

That is why Morrison has to act quickly and no doubt in order to commit Lewis to a slugging match. "He fights scared," Morrison said. "He's a scared fighter. Now that he is heavy he punches harder, but he has slowed down. That will make it a lot easier for me. He still has the flaw that got him hurt in the McCall fight."

Lewis has promised to prove Morrison wrong, but he will have to catch him cleanly. Morrison got up off the floor to knock out Razor Ruddock in his last bout. Virgets said: "Tommy's not a quitter. Against Joe Hipp, he broke his jaw in the second round; in the fifth, he broke his hand and suffered a cut that required 22 stitches. In the seventh, I asked him how his jaw felt. He said: 'It's a little better. I think it's broken all the way through.' Then he went out and took care of business. He is a tough, tough individual."

Loughran sets target

EAMONN LOUGHRAN renews rivalry with Angel Beltre at the Ulster Hall in Belfast tonight, insisting: "This time, there will be no argument about the result." Loughran, the World Boxing Organisation welterweight champion, from Ballymena, plans to put the record straight after incurring a rare blot on his career against the man from the Dominican Republic four months ago. A clash of heads, which left Beltre cut and unable to continue, brought a belated "no contest" decision after officials had studied a tape of the bout at ringside. Loughran kept the title — won in October 1993 — but it was an unsatisfactory night's work and he relishes the chance to win clearly in this, his fifth, defence.

B VARTAN BOYAJIAN

Morrison, left, and Lewis offer each other an early sight of what they will face in their eagerly-anticipated heavyweight contest in Atlantic City tomorrow

Britain on look out for road to Atlanta

BY PETER BRYAN

THERE is a double demand on the Great Britain five-man team in the 177-kilometre amateur world road-race championship at Duitama, Colombia, today. Unless one of the national squad can secure Britain a place among the top 25 nations, they will not qualify for a place in the Olympic road race in Atlanta next year.

"The severity of the circuit here, which does not fall below 2,500 metres above sea level and will be covered ten times with a climb of 3.5 kilometres every lap, makes it almost impossible to forecast how riders will react to such an effort at altitude," Doug Dailey, the national coach, said yesterday. "It's the toughest course I have seen for a championship."

The Britain squad, led by Simon Bray, the national champion, who has also won the Welsh and the universities titles this season, trained at altitude in Colorado before going to Colombia. Rob Harris, Jeremy Hunt, Steve Calland and Matthew Stephens make up the quintet.

Caroline Alexander, better known as an international mountain biker, has been brought into the women's team for the 88-kilometre championship today, in support of Marie Purvis and Sarah Phillips.

Tomorrow sees the last of the world professional road championships, which started in 1927, with cycling going fully "open" from next year. Miguel Induráin, of Spain, the winner of the Tour de France five times, is expected to add another title to the time-trial championship that he won on Wednesday.

WORCESTER

THUNDERER

2.25 Dibloom. 2.55 The Bud Club. 3.25 Mr Primetime. 4.00 Ask The Governor. 4.30 Time Enough. 5.00 Good Insight. 5.30 Lead Vocalist.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) SIS

2.25 CLEVELODE AMATEUR RIDERS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,136: 2m) (17 runners)

1 1112 FAIRY PARK 5 (V,BF,F,G,S) H Oliver 10-12-0 ... N Oliver (7)
2 0/1- DECIDED 4F (C,D,F,G,S) R Lee 12-11-10 ... M Rimell (5)
3 01-0 DIBLOOM 7 (D,S) Mrs L Murphy 7-11-0 ... Miss P Jones (5)
4 /22 LAWNSWOOD JUNIOR 16 (F) J Spearing 8-11-0 ... Miss T Spearing (7)
5 0346 VISIMOTION 16 Miss M Rowland 5-10-12 ... Miss S Sharratt (7)
6 3-00 OWENS DELIGHT 14 (F) P Wegmann 5-10-9 ... R Thornton (7)
7 -253 WEST ORIENT 85 (G) D O'Neill 10-10-8 ... A Mitchell (7)
8 3252 ALWAYS ALEX 22 (V,C,F,G) J Allen 8-10-4 ... N Bradley (7)
9 P-46 BACKSTABBER 16 Miss S Wilton 5-10-4 ... E Babington (7)
10 050- EASTERN MAGIC 127 (D,G) G Barnett 7-10-5 ... B Leavy (7)
11 000- AL SKEET 206 (CD,F) R Price 9-10-0 ... J Culloty (7)
12 500- WATER DIVINER 24F (D,F,G) K Wingrove 5-10-0 ... Miss S Duckett (7)
13 1-35 BOHEMIAN QUEEN 15 (G,G) J Spearing 5-10-0 ... Miss C Spearing (7)
14 R-65 CYCLONE B W G Turner 4-10-0 ... S Mulcaire (7)
15 F024 NO BONUS 31 (D,F) R Baker 11-10-0 ... Miss L Pope (7)
16 /5/ DOTS DEE 25F J Bradley 6-10-0 ... R Johnson (5)
17 P0/- KOBYRUN 514 A Williams 9-10-0 ... A Wintle (7)

7-2 Fairy Park, 5-1 Dibloom, 6-1 Lawnswood Junior, 7-1 Decided, 8-1 Backstabber, 10-1 West Orient, Bohemian Queen, 12-1 Always Alex, 14-1 others.

2.55 BROADWAS NOVICES CHASE (Div I: £2,843: 2m 7f) (10)

1 U-12 CANTORIS FRATER 14 (CD,F) Mrs J Pitman 8-11-7 W Marston
2 -644 EIGHTY EIGHT 14 Mrs H Dowson 10-11-1 ... D Leahy
3 611- HOLY STING 203 (S) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-1 ... C Llewellyn
4 -255 KHAZARI 15 (G,S) R Brotherton 7-11-1 ... L Harvey
5 0/ MAJOR MINER 632 G Balding 7-11-1 ... A Tory
6 0/5- OUR WIZZER 142 (G) J Mullins 6-11-1 ... S Curran (3)
7 5P-U SARACEN'S BOY 30 M Churches 7-11-1 ... Mr L Jefford
8 22U- THE BUD CLUB 215 (G) K Bailey 7-11-1 ... N Williamson
9 34-F GLENFINN PRINCESS 7 (S) Mrs M Jones 7-10-10 ... G Bradley
10 PP/ LORNA-GAIL 556 (G,S) R Alner 9-10-10 ... Mr P Henley (7)

2-1 Cantoris Frater, 11-4 Holy Sting, 4-1 The Bud Club, 6-1 Lorna-Gail, 8-1 Glenfinn Princess, 12-1 Major Miner, 14-1 Khazari, 16-1 others.

3.25 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Qualifier: £2,425: 2m 2f) (11)

1 35-1 BONE SETTER 120 (G) S Mellor 5-11-10 ... Chris Webb (5)
2 11- EXTERIOR PROFILES 147 (F) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-0 ... C Llewellyn
3 400- KING FOWLER 285 A Williams 5-11-0 ... Mr A Wintle (7)
4 0- MICK THE YANK 387 M Heaton-Ellis 5-11-0 ... D Gallagher
5 MONTEGO REEF K Burke 5-11-0 ... A Larnach (3)
6 55P- MR PRIMETIME 225 C Brooks 5-11-0 ... G Bradley
7 5- BLOWN A FUSE 194 J Upson 4-10-13 ... C Maude
8 53-2 LE KHOUMF 15 Mrs L Murphy 4-10-13 ... W Marston
9 4 LITTLE COURT 14 E Bevan 4-10-13 ... Mr R Johnson (5)
10 350- DESIGN 285 (G) C Broad 5-10-9 ... G Hogan (5)
11 5-0P VISION OF LIGHT 28 H Oliver 5-10-9 ... Jacqui Oliver

6-4 Exterior Profiles, 4-1 Le Khoumf, 5-1 Mr Primetime, 6-1 Bone Setter, 10-1 Blown A Fuse, 14-1 Mick The Yank, Design, 16-1 others.

4.00 DIBBERTON HANDICAP CHASE (£4,590: 2m 4f 110yd) (5)

1 2F-4 PARLIAMENT HALL 15 (D,F,S) K Bailey 9-11-10 N Williamson
2 114- DUHALLOW LODGE 226 (G,S) C Barwell 8-11-3 R Dunwoody
3 54-F SAILOR JIM 7 (D,F,S) P Dalton 8-10-8 ... W Marston
4 3F-0 SCOTONI 26 (BF,F,G,S) R O'Sullivan 9-10-7 ... D O'Sullivan
5 404- ASK THE GOVERNOR 147 (F,G,S) G Balding 9-10-0 A P McCoy

9-4 Duhallow Lodge, 11-4 Ask The Governor, 3-1 Parliament Hall, Sailor Jim, 15-1 Scotoni.

4.30 BASTON FORD HANDICAP CHASE (£2,903: 2m) (11)

1 1222 HURRYUP 38 (F) R Dickin 8-11-10 ... R Dunwoody
2 323- CONTI D'ESTRUVAL 136 (G) G Balding 5-11-7 ... A P McCoy
3 333- AMBASSADOR ROYALE 127 (F,S) Miss A Broyd 7-11-6 G McCourt
4 -124 MAGSOOD 5 (V,F,G) J Mullins 10-11-5 ... S Higham (7)
5 221- DEAR DO 200 (D,G) N Henderson 8-11-1 ... M A Fitzgerald
6 0/1- JIM VALENTINE 341 (F,S) C Broad 9-11-1 ... W Marston
7 01U- TIME ENOUGH 206 (D,S) C Brooks 5-11-1 ... G Bradley
8 P42F STRONG EDGE 30 (B,D,BF,F,G) R O'Sullivan 10-10-8 D O'Sullivan
9 044- TUROLDUS 295 P Dalton 10-10-7 ... C Llewellyn
10 132- MAGGOTS GREEN 348 (D,F,S) J Bradley 8-10-6 ... N Williamson
11 3333 STARLAP 4 (CD,F,G,S) R Buckler 11-10-5 ... B Powell

3-1 Dear Do, 7-2 Conti D'Estruval, 5-1 Time Enough, 6-1 Magsood, 8-1 Ambassador Royale, Hurryup, 14-1 others.

5.00 BROADWAS NOVICES CHASE (Div II: £2,843: 2m 7f) (9)

1 3-21 SEAL KING 7 (D,G,S) J Bradley 10-11-7 ... Mr R Johnson (5)
2 U22- BUCKELIGHT 182 T Forster 7-11-1 ... R Farrant
3 PP-U COURT MELODY 7 (G,S) P Nicholls 7-11-1 ... A P McCoy
4 -4P0 DAIRA FORT 28 R Buckler 9-11-1 ... B Powell
5 50-0 FERMAIN 15 K Bishop 6-11-1 ... R Greene
6 230- GOOD INSIGHT 301 (S) C Brooks 7-11-1 ... G Bradley
7 /P3- ROCCO 208 (G,S) S Sherwood 6-11-1 ... J Osborne
8 40P- STORMING RUN 179 P Dalton 7-11-1 ... W Marston
9 200- WASHINGTON HEIGHTS 140 (F,G) C Mann 6-11-1 ... J Railton

9-4 Court Melody, 3-1 Seal King, 4-1 Good Insight, 5-1 Rocco, 8-1 Washington Heights, 10-1 Buckelight, 16-1 others.

5.30 PEACHLEY HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,417: 2m 4f) (10)

1 41P- GO BALLISTIC 208 (D,G,S) J O'Shea 6-11-10 ... M A Fitzgerald
2 3-35 COUTURE STOCKINGS 7 (C,D,BF,F,G,S) J Mackie 11-11-6 ... W Marston
3 5-21 PAMPILLO 5 (G,S) G Balding 7-11-5 (5ex) ... A P McCoy
4 /1P- CLEVER REMARK 346 (G) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-3 C Llewellyn
5 441- MASTER OF TROY 159F (D,F,G,S) C Parker 7-11-3 D Parker (3)
6 0/ STREET KID 918 (C,F,G) R Johnson Houghton 7-11-1 ... G McCourt
7 100- LEAD VOCALIST 168 (D,S) R Rowe 6-10-10 ... D O'Sullivan
8 16-4 RAFTERS 7 (D,G,S) J Bradley 6-10-9 ... N Williamson
9 FP0- TEMPLERAINEY 283 (G) C Barwell 7-10-0 ... R Dunwoody
10 01-4 TRIPPIANO 72 (D,F) Mrs J Cecil 5-10-0 ... T Kent

3-1 Pampillo, 4-1 Go Ballistic, 5-1 Couture Stockings, Trippiano, 7-1 Master Of Troy, 8-1 Clever Remark, 10-1 Lead Vocalist, 14-1 Rafters, 16-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: C Mann, 5 winners from 12 runners, 41.7%; C Brooks, 7 from 22, 31.8%; P Nicholls, 10 from 37, 27.0%; C Barwell, 5 from 23, 21.7%; K Burke, 7 from 34, 20.6%; K Bailey, 16 from 82, 19.5%.

JOCKEYS: J Osborne, 28 winners from 114 rides, 24.6%; G Bradley, 9 from 37, 24.3%; A P McCoy, 13 from 56, 23.2%; N Williamson, 20 from 113, 17.7%; G McCourt, 14 from 84, 16.7%; R Dunwoody, 33 from 206, 16.0%.

HEXHAM

THUNDERER

2.20 Rebel King. 2.50 Peggy Gordon. 3.20 Miss Enrico. 3.50 Scorched Air. 4.20 Houghton. 4.50 Now Young Man.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM SIS

2.20 FEDERATION BREWERY NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£2,786: 2m 110yd) (12 runners)

1 414- DONOVANS REEF 163 (F,S) Mrs L Marshall 9-11-10 Mr N Wilson
2 2F5- RISKY DEE 131 (F,G) V Thompson 6-11-7 ... Mr M Thompson
3 05-4 REBEL KING 17 (G) M Barnes 5-11-3 ... P Waggott
4 4223 GORTNAMONA 8 (CD,G) J Bewley 9-11-1 ... B Storey
5 /P3 GYMCRAK GAMBLE 17 (F) T Dyer 7-10-10 ... Peter Hobbs
6 6-45 FRUHMAN 8 Mrs S Smith 8-10-9 ... R Guest
7 F0P- STRONG MEASURE 142 (F) P Cheesbrough 7-10-2 J Supple (3)
8 305- SOUND PROFIT 173 W Young 7-10-0 ... F Perratt (3)
9 3P/3 SONNY-P 14 P Beaumont 7-10-0 ... R Supple
10 -634 DOXFORD HUT 11 (F) W McKeown 11-10-0 ... A Stanford
11 PF-P BUSTER BEN 17 J Barclay 6-10-0 ... A Thornton
12 005- QUARTZ HILL 164 D Lamb 6-10-0 ... Mr A Manners (7)

5-2 Rebel King, 7-2 Gymcrak Gamble, 6-1 Strong Measure, 8-1 Gortnamona, Donovans Reef, 10-1 Sonny-P, 12-1 others.

2.50 EUROPEAN BREEDERS FUND NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,128: 2m) (10)

1 000- DO LALLY TAT 159 J Johnson 5-11-0 ... Mr C Bonner (3)
2 0-26 GOLF BALL 70 T Watson 5-11-0 ... —
3 /53- ORD GALLERY 359 T Dyer 6-11-0 ... Peter Hobbs
4 ALNBROOK B Mactaggart 4-10-13 ... G Lee (3)
5 56-1 PEGGY GORDON 36 (F) Mrs D Thomson 4-10-13 ... L O'Hara
6 00- PERSUASIVE TALENT 286 D Lamb 4-10-13 Mr A Manners (7)
7 000- SALVO 161 Mrs M Stirk 4-10-13 ... Mr S Swiers
8 4-45 AMBER HOLLY 6 J Dixon 6-10-9 ... B Storey
9 5-25 ELUSIVE STAR 26 J White 5-10-9 ... P McLoughlin (3)
10 06- STORMHILL AMAZON 140 T Tate 4-10-8 ... R Garritty

3-1 Peggy Gordon, 7-2 Golf Ball, 9-2 Stormhill Amazon, 5-1 Elusive Star, Ord Gallery, 6-1 Do Lally Tat, 10-1 Amber Holly, 33-1 others.

☐ Last Second, the Mark Prescott-trained juvenile, challenges for the £25,000-added group three C L Weld Park Stakes at the Curragh today. The filly, who made a winning debut in a maiden at Redcar a fortnight ago, faces six opponents in a race dominated by Irish stables since 1987.

3.20 CARR & HUTTON NOVICES CHASE (£2,950: 3m 1f) (10)

1 1341 TRUMPET 8 (CD,F) J O'Shea 6-12-0 ... B Fenton (5)
2 11-4 MISS ENRICO 14 (C,F) Miss L Russell 8-11-2 ... K Anderson
3 -555- AYLESBURY LAD 150 D Lamb 6-11-0 ... Mr A Manners (7)
4 533- CHARTER FAIR 130 V Thompson 11-11-0 ... K Jones
5 6-PP CROFTON LAKE 14 J Dixon 7-11-0 ... B Storey
6 11-4 HURRICANE ANDREW 11 (F,G,S) M Wane 7-11-0 ... Mr N Wilson
7 3-23 MISTI HUNTER 7 Miss M Milligan 6-11-0 ... R Guest
8 4P4- RIVER BEE 150 W Reed 6-11-0 ... A Thornton
9 60-5 ALICHARGER 17 Mrs D Thomson 5-10-11 ... R McGrath (7)
10 00P- HIGH ROAD 150 J Johnson 5-10-11 ... Mr C Bonner (3)

6-4 Trumpet, 4-1 Miss Enrico, 6-1 Hurricane Andrew, High Road, 8-1 others.

3.50 FEDERATION BREWERY SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,807: 2m) (6)

1 63U3 ELECTRIC COMMITTEE 16 (D,G) P Monteith 5-12-0 B Harding
2 3222 BONDAID 26 (D,F,G) J White 11-11-9 ... P McLoughlin
3 4-U1 SCORCHED AIR 8 (CD,F) J O'Shea 5-11-5 ... B Fenton
4 0/F SHARP AT SIX 16 T Dyer 5-10-13 ... G Cahill (4)
5 U-U5 BORING 11 W Storey 6-10-10 ... J Supple
6 1432 GREEN'S SEAGO 2 (D,F,G) J A Harris 7-10-1 ... T Dascombe

2-1 Scorched Air, 3-1 Green's Seago, Bondaid, Electric Committee, 12-1 others.

4.20 FEDERATION BREWERY MEDALLION LAGER HANDICAP CHASE (£3,002: 2m 4f 110yd) (6)

1 30-1 HOUGHTON 11 (CD,F,G,S) J Johnson 9-12-0 Mr C Bonner (3)
2 133- SHANNON GLEN 147P (D,F,S) M Smith 9-11-8 ... G Harker
3 51-1 FIVELEIGH BUILDS 17 (F,G,S) Miss L Russell 8-11-6 A Thornton
4 110- TWIN STATES 172 (F,G,S) J Turner 6-11-3 ... W Fry (5)
5 31-5 ANTHONY BELL 8 (C,F,G) T Carr 9-10-9 ... B Storey
6 42U- LAURIE-O 130 (CD,F,G,S) D Lamb 11-10-0 Mr A Manners (7)

11-10 Houghton, 100-30 Fiveleigh Builds, 11-2 Twin States, 10-1 others.

4.50 FEDERATION BREWERY SPECIAL ALE HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,976: 3m) (5)

1 4-42 MASTER SAVARD 7 (D,G) P Monteith 7-12-0 ... B Harding (5)
2 P00- NOW YOUNG MAN 168 (F) Mrs A Swinbank 6-11-6 ... Mr C Wilson
3 -442 CANDID LAD 11 (F) F Storey 8-10-2 ... B Storey
4 0P-2 GOOD PROFIT 9 W Young 6-10-0 ... F Perratt (3)
5 F3F6 SAINTE MARTINE 7 (F,G) J A Harris 6-10-0 ... G Lee (3)

8-11 Master Savard, 15-8 Now Young Man, 10-1 Candid Lad, 12-1 others.

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J O'Shea, 8 winners from 12 runners, 66.7%; T Carr, 4 from 13, 30.8%; P Monteith, 13 from 44, 29.5%; M Barnes, 9 from 45, 20.0%; J Johnson, 10 from 54, 18.5%; W Reed, 9 from 57, 15.8%.

JOCKEYS: B Harding, 5 winners from 26 rides, 19.2%; L O'Hara, 7 from 42, 16.7%; P Waggott, 6 from 43, 14.0%; R Guest, 5 from 40, 12.5%; A Thornton, 4 from 40, 10.0%.

BANGOR

THUNDERER

2.05 Buckhouse Boy. 2.35 Thistle Princess. 3.05 Nahri. 3.40 Tug Of Peace. 4.15 Addington Boy. 4.45 Chicodari. 5.20 Queen Of Spades.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT SIS

2.05 OVREVOLL NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,584: 2m 4f) (8 runners)

1 R02- RYAN GIGGS 196 A Jarvis 4-11-11 ... P Morris (7)
2 030- BUCKHOUSE BOY 204 N Twiston-Davies 5-11-6 ... T Jenks
3 582- TIGHT FIST 294 Miss H Knight 5-11-6 ... J F Titley
4 -421 ALL CLEAR 7 (G) M Pipe 4-11-1 ... D Bridgwater
5 050- COTTAGE CRAFT 215 W Bethell 6-11-0 ... A S Smith
6 -480- LITTLE SERENA 17F W Brisbourne 5-10-0 ... S Wynne
7 5/P- GEORGE LANE 427 F Jordan 7-10-0 ... J Lodder
8 50/ MERRYHILL MADAM 504 P Bradley 6-10-0 ... T Eley

2-1 Ryan Giggs, 3-1 Buckhouse Boy, 7-2 Tight Fist, All Clear, 12-1 Cottage Craft, 16-1 Little Serena, 25-1 others.

2.35 STADCO HANDICAP CHASE (£3,713: 2m 1f 110yd) (4)

1 115- JAMES THE FIRST 189 (F,G,S) P Nicholls 7-11-10 ... Gary Lewis (3)
2 42-8 DR ROCKET 9 (F,G,S) R Dickin 10-11-3 ... D Meredith
3 /1F- THISTLE PRINCESS 158 (CD,F) G Richards 6-10-12 A Dobbin
4 335- CIRCULATION 129 (D,G,S) D McCain 9-10-0 ... D Walsh (5)

Evens James The First, 2-1 Thistle Princess, 3-1 Dr Rocket, 20-1 Circulation.

3.05 NUMARK HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,905: 2m 1f) (8)

1 014- TWICE THE GROOM 6F (S) R Lee 5-11-10 ... A Dobbin
2 000- MALIHABAD 17F (G) R Hollinshead 6-11-10 ... L Wyer
3 124- KAITAK 177F (G) J Carr 4-11-9 ... M Dwyer
4 110- DULZURA 268 (G,S) A Jarvis 7-10-13 ... A Maguire
5 124- NAHRI 26F (D,G) J Hanson 4-10-13 ... T Eley
6 3/4- QUICK SILVER BOY 33F (G) D Burchell 5-10-9 ... Miss E J Jones (7)
7 263- LONE RISK 21F (D,S) C Allen 4-10-6 ... D Bridgwater
8 030- BARRYBEN 262 W Brisbourne 6-10-0 ... S Wynne

7-4 Nahri, 7-2 Dulzura, 9-2 Twice The Groom, 6-1 Kaitak, 7-1 Quick Silver Boy, 12-1 Lone Risk, 14-1 others

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: J Jefferson, 3 winners from 6 runners, 50.0%; D Nicholson, 8 from 22, 36.4%; K Bailey, 7 from 21, 33.3%; R Dickin, 8 from 26, 30.8%; M Pipe, 19 from 66, 28.8%; D Burchell, 5 from 20, 25.0%.

JOCKEYS: D Meredith, 6 winners from 27 rides, 22.2%; M Dwyer, 7 from 35, 20.0%; A Maguire, 13 from 70, 18.6%; D Bridgwater, 10 from 60, 16.7%; S Wynne, 7 from 54, 13.0%; S McNeill, 3 from 26, 11.5%.

☐ Prince Arthur (trained by Peter Chapple-Hyam and ridden by John Reid) and Nicolotte (Geoff Wragg — Michael Hills) meet in the group one Premio Vittorio di Capua over a mile at San Siro, Milan, tomorrow.

3.40 WILLIS CORROON HANDICAP CHASE (£4,429: 3m 110yd) (5)

1 PP-4 BISHOPS ISLAND 14 (CD,S) Miss H Knight 9-11-11 ... J F Titley
2 U-1U TUG OF PEACE 14 (F,G,S) G Balding 8-11-4 ... B Clifford
3 140- SMITH TOO 147 (CD,F,G) Mrs J Pitman 7-10-5 ... D Bridgwater
4 31-4 STOP THE WALLER 21 (G,S) M Barnes 6-10-0 ... A Dobbin
5 /P2- TIBER MELODY 385 (S,G) W Bethell 12-10-0 ... A S Smith

6-4 Tug Of Peace, 5-2 Bishops Island, 7-2 Smith Too, 6-1 Stop The Waller, 12-1 Tiber Melody

4.15 THELWALL MEMORIAL TROPHY NOVICES CHASE (£3,534: 2m 4f 110yd) (11)

1 02-1 ADDINGTON BOY 11 (F,G) G Richards 7-11-7 ... A Dobbin
2 14-2 BEATSON 17 (BF,F,S) N Twiston-Davies 6-11-0 ... T Jenks
3 -362 DANDIE IMP 15 (S) A Stern 7-11-0 ... S Burrough
4 003- DRUMCULLEN 161 K Bailey 6-11-0 ... T J Murphy (5)
5 0-23 EAST HOUSTON 50 (BF,G) J J O'Neill 6-11-0 ... M Dwyer
6 /10 LA FONTAINBLEAU 7 (F) D Brown 7-11-0 ... L Wyer
7 PP- MASTER ORCHESTRA 281 Miss H Knight 6-11-0 ... J F Titley
8 P5-3 MOZEMO 71 (G) A Baker 8-11-0 ... D Bridgwater
9 6P3- ON THE TEAR 168 F Lloyd 9-11-0 ... S McNeill
10 31P- MALAWI 186 (S) W Bethell 5-10-12 ... A S Smith
11 3PF- PRECIOUS JUNO 173 (F,S) G Charles-Jones 6-10-9 W McFarland

9-4 Addington Boy, 11-4 Beatson, 5-1 Drumcullen, 6-1 East Houston, 8-1 Malawi, 10-1 Dandie Imp, Mozemo, 12-1 others

4.45 COCK BANK JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (£2,920: 2m 1f) (15)

1 21 SHIFTING MOON 38 (B,D,F) F Jordan 11-6 ... J Lodder
2 CHICODARI 96F D Nicholson 11-0 ... A Maguire
3 COURT NAP 10F S Mellor 11-0 ... N Mann
4 GUARDSMAN 427F T Caldwell 11-0 ... Pat Caldwell
5 P HAYDOWN 16 C Nash 11-0 ... J R Kavanagh
6 HONG KONG DESIGNER 19F S Norton 11-0 ... O Pears
7 5 NINE BARROW DOWN 16 Miss M Rowland 11-0 Gary Lyons
8 OCEAN HAWK 319F N Twiston-Davies 11-0 ... T Jenks
9 ROYALE ANGELA Mrs L Murphy 11-0 ... D Bridgwater
10 0 THE CAPE DOCTOR 21 A Foster 11-0 ... J F Titley
11 TOSHIBA TALK 22F B Ellison 11-0 ... D Bentley
12 GARLANDE D'OR 86F P Ham 10-9 ... E Husband (5)
13 LAWNSWOOD LADY 66F R Hollinshead 10-9 M W Martin (7)
14 PATS DELIGHT 54F S Coathup 10-9 ... Mark Brown (7)
15 SIMAND 22F G Moore 10-9 ... J Callaghan

6-4 Chicodari, 7-2 Ocean Hawk, 5-1 Shifting Moon, 8-1 Simand, 10-1 Court Nap, Hong Kong Designer, 12-1 Lawnswood Lady, 20-1 others

5.20 BANGOR MARES ONLY OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (£1,669: 2m 1f) (17)

1 14- QUEEN OF SPADES 266 (G) N Twiston-Davies 5-11-11 S Joynes (7)
2 BOBBIE'S GIRL J O'Shea 5-11-4 ... S Dully (7)
3 0- GOLDENSWIFT 472 G Balding 5-11-4 ... B Clifford
4 42- MISS BRECKNELL 192 Mrs J Pitman 6-11-4 Mr M J McGarth (7)
5 QUEENSMEAD RULE J Parkes 5-11-4 ... R McCarthy (7)
6 RACHAEL'S DAWN J Eyre 5-11-4 ... O Pears
7 00- RUGRAT 140 E Preece 5-11-4 ... R Davis
8 BUCKELLO Miss M Rowland 4-11-3 ... Gary Lyons
9 CLASSIC EDITION P Bowen 4-11-3 ... D Bridgwater
10 5- FLY IN AMBER 192 D Brace Davies 4-11-3 ... S McNeill
11 KNOCKBRIT LADY A Foster 4-11-3 ... A Maguire
12 LADY LOIS B Preece 4-11-3 ... S Wynne
13 5- NORMAN'S DELIGHT 203 S Dow 4-11-3 ... A Dicken
14 PRESTIGE LADY B Smart 4-11-3 ... M Molloy (7)
15 2- SUPREME LADY 178 Miss H Knight 4-11-3 ... J F Titley
16 THE KILLALOE RUN J Jefferson 4-11-3 ... M Dwyer
17 VALLINGALE Miss H Knight 4-11-3 ... G Ryan (5)

9-4 Supreme Lady, 5-1 Queen Of Spades, 6-1 Norman's Delight, 7-1 Vallingale, 8-1 Miss Brecknell, 10-1 The Killaloe Run, 12-1 Goldenswift, 14-1 others.

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

Ascot

Going: soft

2.00 (1m 4f) 1, CHIEF BEE (Mr J Durkan, 7-1); 2, Minnesota Viking (Mr P Pritchard-Gordon, 5-1 fav); 3, Father Dan (Mr R Johnson, 11-2). ALSO RAN: 6 Krayyan Dawn, 7 Euro Forum, 15-2 Grand Applause (4th), 10 Golden Arrow, 12 Trade Wind (5th), 20 Backview, Cuban Nights (6th), 33 Air Command, 66 Regal Aura. 12 ran. 7l, ½l, 3½l, 2½l, 2l. J Dunlop at Arundel. Tote £5.70; £2.80, £1.60, £2.10. DF: £20.50. Trio: £19.90. CSF: £37.18. Tricast: £185.79

2.30 (6f) 1, MIDNIGHT BLUE (J Reid, 16-1); 2, Mutamanni (R Hills, 7-1); 3, Insiyabi (W Carson, 9-2). ALSO RAN: 11-10 fav Cornish Snow (4th), 8 Northern Judge, 14 Bandit Girl, Old Hat (5th), 16 Tawaaded, 40 Warren Knight, 50 Valjess, 66 Little Pilgrim (6th). 11 ran. 3l, 4l, 1½l, 1¼l, hd. W Jarvis at Newmarket. Tote: £27.50; £3.60, £1.90, £1.70. DF: £112.10. Trio: £145.60. CSF: £114.02.

3.05 (1m) 1, A LA CARTE (T Quinn, 5-1); 2, Autumn Affair (M Roberts, 12-1); 3, Donna Viola (L Dettori, 12-1). ALSO RAN: 5-2 fav Goalwah, 4 Louis' Queen (5th), 8 Crystal Cavern, 10 Courageous Dancer (4th), 14 Moneefa (6th), 16 Alessia, 50 Pearl Venture. 10 ran. 1l, 2½l, ½l, 2½l, nk. J Dunlop at Arundel. Tote: £6.10; £1.70, £2.80, £2.40. DF: £23.10. Trio: £72.70. CSF: £54.81.

3.40 (7f) 1, PRENDS CA (Pat Eddery, 12-1); 2, Frezeliere (L Dettori, 9-2); 3, Rhumba Dancer (Dane O'Neill, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 7-2 fav Bold Enough (6th), 4 Careful (4th), 9-2 Half An Inch, 9 Double Diamond (5th). 7 ran. ½l, 1½l, 3½l, ½l, hd. R Hannon at East Everleigh. Tote: £15.00; £4.10, £2.60. DF: £49.40. CSF: £58.32.

4.15 (2m 45yd) 1, MEANT TO BE (J Reid, 10-1); 2, Greycoat Boy (N Carlisle, 7-1); 3, French Ivy (R Cochrane, 5-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 fav Benfleet (5th), 11-2 Turquoise Sea, 9 Supreme Star (6th), 10 Sean King, 11 Star Player, 14 Sea Freedom (4th), 20 Head Turner, Requested, Ripanus. 12 ran. Sh hd, 1½l, 8l, ½l, 2½l. Lady Herries at Littlehampton. Tote: £11.70; £2.90, £2.40, £1.60. DF: £89.90. Trio: £107.50. CSF: £72.26. Tricast: £351.95

4.45 (1m) 1, KING OF TUNES (P P Murphy, 33-1); 2, Beauchamp Jazz (A Whelan, 4-7 fav); 3, Saltando (Dane O'Neill, 20-1). ALSO RAN: 9-2 Coeur Francais, La Gran Senorita (4th), [illegible] 14 ran. NR: Emperors Wood. [illegible] J Sheehan at Findon. Tote: £42.80; £4.30, £1.20, £2.30. DF: £37.20. Trio: £159.40. CSF: £52.25

5.15 (1m 4f) 1, INDIGO TIME (T Quinn, 10-1); 2, Lucayan Sunshine (L Dettori, 100-30 fav); 3, Reimei (D Harrison, 14-1); 13, Sharp Falcon (J Weaver, 14-1). ALSO RAN: 4 Bit On The Side, 9 Unforgiving Minute, 10 Country Star, Kalou, 11 Mr Browning, 12 Swallows Dream, 14 Loki, 20 Artic Courier (6th), Bayrak, 33 No Speeches, River Keen (5th). 15 ran. 3l, 1½l, dd-ht, 1l, 2l. P Cole at Whatcombe. Tote: £16.30; £3.50, £2.20, Sharp Falcon £2.60, Reimei £3.90. DF: £48.80. Trio: (with Sharp Falcon) £40.00 (with Reimei) £171.40. CSF: £43.63. Tricast: (with Sharp Falcon) £223.88, (with Reimei) £223.88.

Jackpot: not won (pool of £6,796.67 carried forward to York today).

Placepot: £238.60. Quadpot: £263.00.

Cheltenham

Going: good to firm, firm in places

2.10 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Same Difference (P Morris, 9-2); 2, Gone By (2-1 jt-fav); 3, Patroclus (7-2). Gunmaker 2-1 jt-fav. 5 ran. 3½l, 6l. A Jarvis. Tote: £7.30; £3.10, £1.20. DF: £10.10. CSF: £12.94

2.45 (2m 5f ch) 1, Le Meille (N Williamson, 14-1); 2, Prolwel (1-4 fav); 3, Sagaman (5-1). 4 ran. 2½l, 10l. A Jarvis. Tote: £6.90. DF: £3.00. CSF: £18.06

3.15 (2m 5f 110yd hdle) 1, Fisher Sky (J Osborne, 10-11 fav); 2, Sonic Star (9-2); 3, Thane (20-1). 4 ran. 4l, dist. O Sherwood. Tote: £1.90. DF: £2.60. CSF: £4.85.

3.50 (2m 110yd ch) 1, Easthorpe (J Osborne, 7-4 jt-fav); 2, What's In Orbit (4-1); 3, Egypt Mill Prince (7-4 jt-fav). 5 ran. 1l, 15l. Miss H Knight. Tote: £2.30; £1.70, £1.90. DF: £4.40. CSF: £7.81

4.25 (2m 110yd hdle) 1, Southampton (A P McCoy, 7-2); 2, Innocent George (3-1); 3, Square York (13-8 fav). 4 ran. NR: Kelly Mac, Royal Circus. 2½l, 4l. G Balding. Tote: £3.80. DF: £3.40. CSF: £12.13

4.55 (3m 1f 110yd ch) 1, James Pigg (D Bridgwater, 5-6 fav); 2, Grange Brake (13-8). 3 ran. Only two finished. 12l. M Pipe. Tote: £1.70. DF: £1.20. CSF: £2.40

5.30 (2m 110yd flat) 1, Mandys Mantino (L Aspell, 12-1); 2, Neat Feat (9-1); 3, Tosku (10-1). Ashwell Boy 11-10 fav. 18 ran. 1½l, ½l. J Gifford. Tote: £26.80; £4.60, £2.60, £2.60. DF: £225.40. Trio: £373.40. CSF: £114.22.

Placepot: £3,545.80. Quadpot: £56.00.

Carlisle

Going: good to firm, firm in places

1.50 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Elation (A Dobbin, 4-6 fav); 2, Eden Dancer (11-4); 3, Busher (14-1). 12 ran. NR: Pattern Arms. 11l, 3½l. G Richards. Tote: £1.30; £1.10, £1.10, £2.60. DF: £1.20. Trio: £7.10. CSF: £2.58. Punch (12-1) withdrawn, not under orders — rule 4 applies to all bets, deduction 5p in pound.

2.20 (2m 4f 110yd ch) 1, McGregor The Third (B Harding, 9-2); 2, Plumbob (13-8 fav); 3, Nova Champ (7-4). 5 ran. NR: Moorechurch Glen, Spanish Light. Dist, 2½l. G Richards. Tote: £5.90; £1.40, £1.30. DF: £4.00. CSF: £11.07

2.56 (2m 1f hdle) 1, Chadwick's Ginger (D Parker, 4-1); 2, Dancing Dove (4-7 fav); 3, Andros Gale (4-1). 4 ran. ¾l, 2½l. W Tinning. Tote: £6.50. DF: £1.90. CSF: £6.34.

3.30 (3m ch) 1, Kushbaloo (B Storey, Evens fav); 2, Countorus (7-4). 3 ran. 14l. C Parker. Tote: £1.70. DF: £1.30. CSF: £2.70

4.00 (2m 4f 110yd hdle) 1, Golden Nugget (L Wyer, 9-2); 2, Gale Ahead (11-10 fav); 3, Red Eikon (10-1). 7 ran. 4l, dist. E Alston. Tote: £5.70; £2.60, £1.40. DF: £3.00. CSF: £9.32.

4.35 (2m ch) 1, Mr Woodcock (L Wyer, 11-4 jt-fav); 2, Precipice Run (5-1); 3, De Jordaan (11-4 jt-fav). 5 ran. 5l, 7l. Mrs M Reveley. Tote: £2.70; £2.30, £1.90. DF: £3.20. CSF: £14.04

5.05 (2m 1f flat) 1, Direct Route (Mr C Bonner, 2-1); 2, Jocks Cross (8-1); 3, Fenwick's Brother (7-4 fav). 6 ran. NR: Good Venture. 3½l, 25l. J Johnson. Tote: £2.60; £1.40, £2.90. DF: £5.60. CSF: £15.81

Placepot: £142.80. Quadpot: £39.40 (part won; pool of £42.64 carried forward to York today).

☐ Peter Niven misses a ride at Hexham today. He bruised his back after taking a heavy fall from Sword Beach in the three-mile handicap chase at Carlisle yesterday.

☐ Lord Huntingdon's Sharp Prod faces eight rivals in the listed Grosser Buchmacher Springer Sprint Preis at Munich tomorrow.

Bucknall adds to England's woes

BY NICHOLAS HARLING

STEVE BUCKNALL pulled out of the England basketball squad yesterday to leave Laszlo Nemeth, the national coach, with all his familiar problems before the European championship tie against Latvia in Riga tomorrow.

"Anyone who envies me my job should be with me now," Nemeth said after Bucknall had joined John Amaechi and Spencer Dunkley on the list of absentees.

A ferocious dunk against the Turks of Tofas Spor Kulubu in Bursa on Wednesday proved costly for Bucknall, who aggravated an injury to his right, shooting hand. Although he finished the midweek Korac Cup tie with 22 points for his club, London Towers, adding to the 28 that he scored last Saturday against the Leopards. Bucknall returned home, disillusioned not only by the pain of defeat. "Only an injury could stop me playing for England," he said. He hopes that the swelling will go down in time for him to return for England's next game in group A, against Estonia at Leicester on Wednesday.

The withdrawal of England's key, 6ft 6in forward should give Andy Gardiner, his club-mate, the chance of making an impact against the Latvians. "Andy can play my role. There shouldn't be a problem," Bucknall said.

Nemeth, however, was far from convinced. In the knowledge that Latvia were deprived of a place in the European finals in Athens this summer only by a three-point defeat by Lithuania, he insisted: "This is a tough game. We are the underdogs."

ENGLAND SQUAD: P Scantlebury (Thames Valley Tigers, captain), N Austin (London Towers), A Gardiner (London Towers), R Baker (Leopards), K Brown (Leopards), I Whyte (Leopards), S Baker (Birmingham), M Payne (Birmingham), P Vourlotis (Birmingham), J Crump (Sheffield Sharks), R Huggins (Sheffield Sharks), P Grainger (Manchester Giants), D Roper (Leicester City Riders), K Samuels (Derby Storm), A Simms (Derby Storm)

KEENE on CHESS

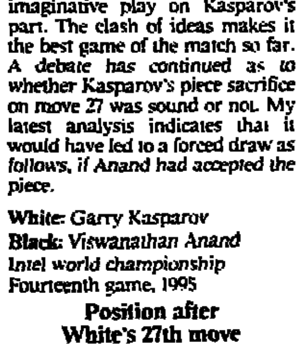
BY RAYMOND KEENE
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Best game

The fourteenth game of the world championship in New York was characterised by some risky and imaginative play on Kasparov's part. The clash of ideas makes it the best game of the match so far. A debate has continued as to whether Kasparov's piece sacrifice on move 27 was sound or not. My latest analysis indicates that it would have led to a forced draw as follows, if Anand had accepted the piece.

White: Garry Kasparov
Black: Viswanathan Anand
Intel world championship
Fourteenth game, 1995

Position after White's 27th move



27	..	fxe5
28	fxe5	Ne4
29	Bxd8	Rxd8
30	g4	hxg4
31	Bxg4	Bxg4
32	Qxg4	Nf2+
33	Rxf2	Qxd2
34	Qxg6+	Bg7
35	Rc7	

and now Black must give a draw with

35	..	Qf1+
36	Qg1	Qf3+
37	Qg2	Qd1+

leading to perpetual check

Kasparov nears goal

With that draw, Garry Kasparov is now only 1½ points away from overall match victory and the $1 million winner's prize.

White: Viswanathan Anand
Black: Garry Kasparov
Intel world championship
Fifteenth game, 1995

Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	Nf3	d6
3	d4	cxd4
4	Nxd4	Nf6
5	Nc3	g6
6	Be3	Bg7
7	f3	0-0
8	Qd2	Nc6
9	g4	Be6
10	0-0-0	Nxd4
11	Bxd4	Qa5
12	Kb1	Rfc8
13	a3	Rab8
14	Nd5	Qxd2
15	Rxd2	Nxd5
16	Bxg7	Ne3

Draw agreed

Championship book

A full account of the match will appear in a Times book by Raymond Keene, World Chess Championship: Kasparov v Anand (Batsford £9.99), which will be published two days after the result is known. Credit card orders on 01376 327901.

Weekend page 27

Match score

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Kasparov	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	0	1	1	½	1	1	½	9
Anand	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	½	1	0	0	½	0	0	½	6

Saturday portrait: Va'aiga Tuigamala, by Christopher Irvine

Amiable powerhouse prepares to unleash destructive armoury

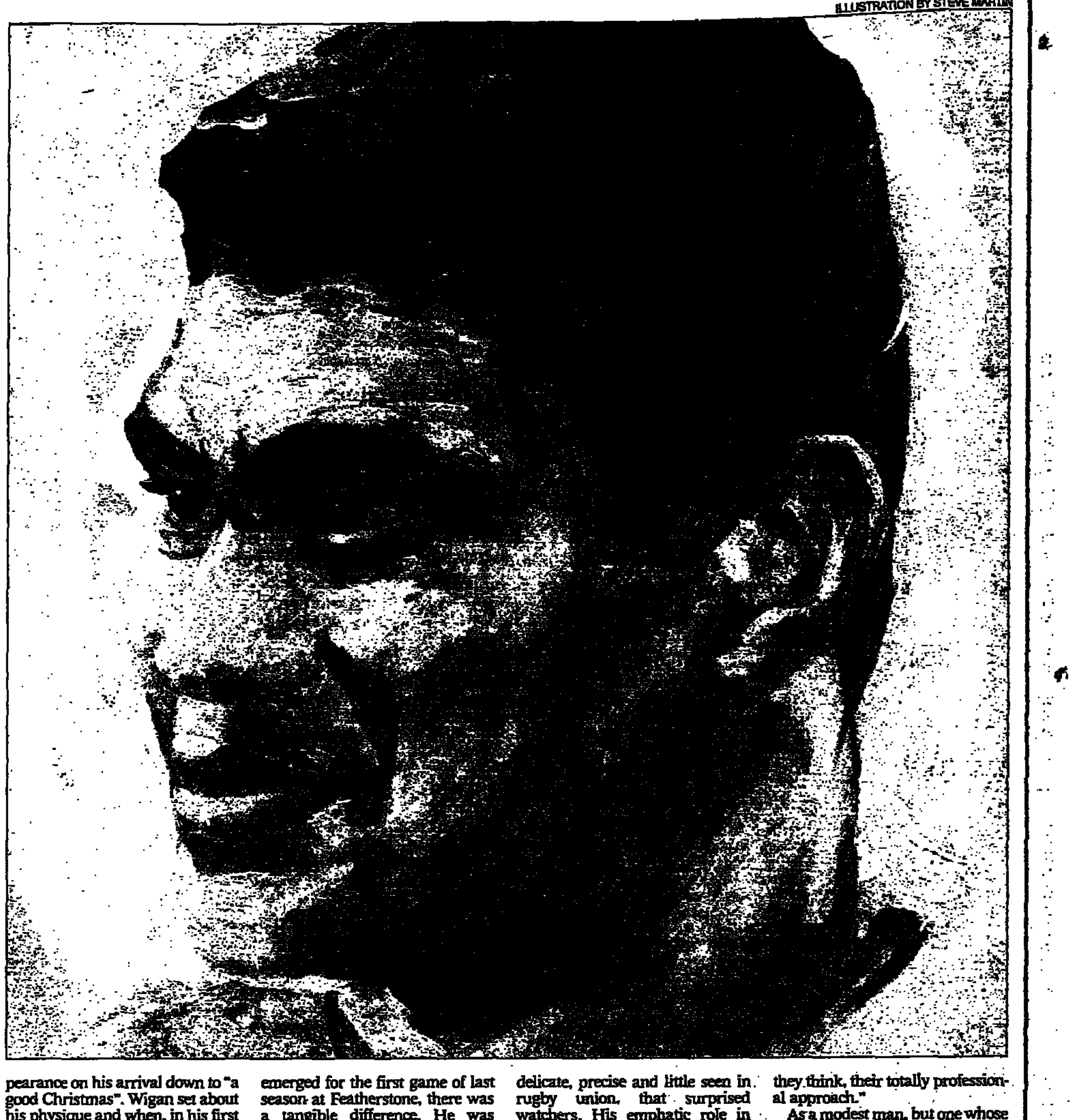


ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

His is the forbidding face that instils fear but never loathing, that will light up like a lantern and radiate joy, all in an instant. One moment, the eyes are popping, the next a grin extends from ear to ear. A recent *publicity poster* showed Va'aiga Tuigamala staring wildly, fists raised and clenched, underneath the caption: "Jonah Lom Who?".

Comparisons to the All Black wing are apposite. It was Tuigamala's position before his conversion in January last year to *rugby league; like Lomu, he can be* a destructive force against which there is simply no defence. In the restricted role of blunderbuss out wide in 19 international appearances, New Zealand rugby union missed the best that Wigan's £400,000 investment in him is so richly rewarding and which Western Samoa hope to exploit in *surviving* the "group of death" with Wales and France in the Halifax World Cup.

Tuigamala, 26, followed his heart in choosing to represent his birthplace ahead of New Zealand when he switched codes. With the Kiwis, his impact on the rugby league World Cup might have *matched* that of Lomu in the union code's tournament in South Africa in the summer. It could still. Western Samoa are a disparate *collection of far-flung talents.* Tuigamala is the head of Polynesia's Lancashire branch — whose untested combined strength, *under the wily stewardship* of Graham Lowe, the former Wigan coach, should ensure that at least one of the exotic South Seas teams is not here just to make up the numbers.

Take a walk around Tuigamala, look and wonder; his is a shape reminiscent of the boxer, Mike Tyson, so powerfully square that he seems somehow wider than his 5ft 10in height. He is a 16½st specimen hewn from Samoan rock, and awesomely crafted.

Yet this genial bull of a man *arrived at Wigan looking as if he* had been put out to grass. Indeed, Auckland had done just that. When the "Big Black Bus", as the French dubbed him, rolled into Central Park, he was carrying more than one spare tyre. His confession that the nearest he came to weight-training was lifting coconut shells brought a strict diet and training routine. "I took one look at his backside," one of the Wigan conditioners said, "and knew we had to halve it."

Rivington Pike is a *steep* hill overlooking Bolton. In the distance are the Central Park floodlights. For a month, Chris Butler, the *Wigan fitness coach, had his new* charge racing up and down the 500 feet of steps.

A devout Christian, Tuigamala *said the move to England* and a new sport was a challenge set him by God. There was no shirking training, as had happened in his rugby union days. From the start, he exemplified the dedication and commitment that are prerequisites of the Wigan regime. Their faith in him was upheld by confirmation that there was a good deal more to *Tuigamala than just a battering* ram.

> **'His handling, delicate, precise and little seen in rugby union, surprised watchers'**

He struggled at first, as most converts do, but Graeme West, the *Wigan* coach, was impressed with him from the start. "No, Inga's progress hasn't surprised me. It wasn't just his immense physical presence, great ball-handling abilities, but the desire to learn, the willingness to listen. That first close season was the real making of him. He worked and worked. The next season we experimented with him at centre. It went well and he told me that was the position he wanted to make his own. You don't think anything other than pencilling him in *there," West said.*

The journey of "Inga the Winger" to "Inga the Wiganer" and centre took Tuigamala from childhood in Samoa to Auckland. His parents moved there seeking a more prosperous life for their eight sons and six daughters, and instilled his strong religious, cultural and family values. For a young bullock, rugby was a natural choice and, at secondary school, there was a foretaste of a future All Black combination with Craig Innes. "He was a *big, crazy,* loveable bloke who'd just step right over you," Innes said, "but I reckon that at about 19, union had *already seen the best of him."*

Tuigamala returned home immediately after the Challenge Cup final last April after the death of *his grandfather, a rare visit. His* life is an avowedly private one away from rugby. He, his wife Daphne, two children, brother, Lua — who plays rugby union for Orrell — and other members of the family live together as a mini-Samoan colony on the outskirts of town, practising the cultural and spiritual lifestyle of their homeland. On Sunday match days, Tuigamala still attends church. He is Christian first, celebrity second.

Doug Laughton, while manager of Leeds, had his attention drawn to the young Polynesian bulldozer, but, after watching Tuigamala's debut against the United States in the 1991 rugby union World Cup, it was to Innes that he eventually turned.

Tuigamala, though, was becoming good for the box office. There was *his haka, a wonderful* eye-rolling, tongue-flicking spectacle; the famous staring out of Ieuan Evans before New Zealand's first *defeat of the British Isles in 1993 at* Christchurch; and the trademark swatting away of defenders. "Tackling him," Will Carling once said, "is like launching yourself at a bicycle that is going flat out. You get sucked into the spokes, mangled up and spewed out."

When Wigan began waving their chequebook, the All Blacks Club mustered sufficient incentives for the people's favourite to reject an initial offer, but the combination of Wigan raising the stakes, an ill-starred New Zealand *tour to Britain and some influential* words from Innes and the "Big Fella" — Tuigamala's reference to the Almighty — took him and his extended family of friends and relatives to Wigan.

Tuigamala put his bloated appearance on his arrival down to "a good Christmas". Wigan set about his physique and when, in his first few games, he was nicknamed Puffing Billy on the terraces, the club stuck by him. In the Wigan set-up, in which fear of losing has now become the all-important *spur to sustained success,* Tuigamala was swept along.

During his first summer months, often alone in the gymnasium, *he* pumped weights, toiled at his sprinting and immersed himself in the new code. When he emerged for the first game of last season at Featherstone, there was a tangible difference. He was confident, more assured in his positioning, inclined to throw his weight about and demonstrate blistering speed off the mark. It was also the start of a centre *partnership with Gary Connolly* that continues to blossom. "The brilliant blockbuster and the great all-rounder," West said. "They are poles apart as players, but complement each other so well."

It was Tuigamala's handling, delicate, precise and little seen in rugby union, that surprised watchers. His emphatic role in Wigan's Regal Trophy final dismantlement of Warrington last January was typical: two powerhouse tries and sweet passes flicked out like a lizard's tongue to *send in Connolly and Martin* Offiah. After that triumph, Tuigamala remarked: "In a new career, it is best to learn from the best. Wigan resemble the *All* Blacks a lot, especially in attitude. I can relate to these guys, the way they think, their totally professional approach."

As a modest man, but one whose conviction extends to his abilities, Tuigamala reckons he is "on the crawl, not walk stage yet in rugby league". It is a statement of intent. If he really has shown only bits *and pieces, the best of a trimmer,* yet faster. Tuigamala leaves something to the imagination. As the Halifax World Cup kicks off, the man proclaimed by Central Park as the eighth wonder of the world is getting ready to rumble.

Christopher Irvine's guide to the teams in the Halifax Rugby League World Cup

GROUP 1

AUSTRALIA (seeded)

The holders for two decades, weak? Really? No Super League players, just plain, ordinary, super players. Below ideal strength, but justified favourites, again. Fittler is an inspirational captain and peerless stand-off half. Some familiar names, with bright stars on the horizon, Dallas, Toovey, Raper, plus Dymock and Hopoate, two players prised from Tonga.

Backs: T Brasher (Sydney Tigers), M Coyne (St George), B Dallas (Sydney Bulldogs), B Fittler (Penrith, captain), T Hill (Manly), J Hopoate (Manly), A Johns (Newcastle), M Johns (Newcastle), P McGregor (Illawarra), D Moore (Manly), R O'Davis (Newcastle), G Toovey (Manly), R Wishart (Illawarra). Forwards: W Bartrim (St George), M Carroll (Manly), J Dymock (Sydney Bulldogs), D Gillespie (Manly), P Harragon (Newcastle), N Kosef (Manly), S Menzies (Manly), A Muir (Newcastle), B Moore (North Sydney), D Pay (Sydney Bulldogs), A Raper (Cronulla), J Smith (Sydney Bulldogs) Coach: Bob Fulton. Odds (William Hill). 11-4

ENGLAND (seeded)

England must discover if the below-strength Kangaroos can be tied down. They will never have a better chance, especially on the favourite Wembley stage. Proven quality, with exceptional teenage talent in Radlinski, Haughton and Cook. Might just succeed if Edwards *can keep his head. Offiah* (later in the tournament) and Robinson get the chance to pin back their ears on the wings and a juggernaut pack gets motoring.

Backs: J Bentley (Halifax), G Connolly (Wigan), P Cook (Leeds), S Edwards (Wigan, captain), B Goulding (St Helens), P Newlove (Bradford), M Offiah (Wigan), N Pinkney (Keighley), K Radlinski (Wigan), J Robinson (Wigan), T Smith (Castleford) Forwards: D Betts (Auckland), P Broadbent (Sheffield), M Cassidy (Wigan), P Clarke (Sydney City), A Farrell (Wigan), K Harrison (Halifax), S Haughton (Wigan), L Jackson (Newcastle Knights), C Joynt (St Helens), S McCurrie (Widnes), A Platt (Auckland), D Sampson (Castleford). Utility back/forward: B-J Mather (Wigan) Coach: Phil Larder Odds: 3-1

SOUTH AFRICA

Romantic and weakest entry. One nation: no hope. Of the mainly former union players from provin*cial B sides, Fisher, the coach, said:* "Their fitness was terrible." Great strides since. Thrashed Great Britain amateur side twice.

Backs: B Alkema (Barea), A Ballot (Bay Of Plenty), W Boshoff (Dewsbury), F Cloete (Barea), G Coombe (Durban), T Fourie (Dewsbury), J Jennings (South Queensland), M Johnson (Workington), E Lubbe (Eastern Reds), J Mudgeway (Durban), N Serfontein (Hemel Hempstead), P van Wyk (Eastern Reds). Forwards: J Alberts (Pretoria), J Booysen (Dewsbury, captain), P Grobbelaar (Dewsbury), K Human (South Queensland), E Ludick, W McCann, E Powell (City Scorpions), K van Deventer (Dewsbury), J van Niekerk (Eastern Reds), J Visser, G Watts (Dewsbury), G Williams (Durban). Coach: Tony Fisher. Odds: 1,000-1

FIJI

The "Batis" have come a long way after defections from the Fiji union sevens side three years ago. Have beaten Papua New Guinea and France. They play high-risk rugby. Watch for Nadruku, the wing.

Backs: O Cavuilati (Sydney Bulldogs), J Dakuitoga (Penrith), N Nadruku (Canberra), K Naisoro (Lautoka), L Nalagilagi (Penrith, captain), N Nayacakalou (Penrith), I Ratudina (Nadera), F Seru (South Queensland), W Sovatabua (Carpenters Motors Panthers), S Taga (Fish Nadi Dragons), P Toga (Fish Nadi Dragons), G Vatubua (Lautoka). Forwards: S Davetawalu (Fish Nadi Dragons), A Degei (Parramatta), N Kaunivalu (Lautoka), S Marayawa (Tumbarumba), P Nakubuwai (Ynco Wamoon), K Ratukana (Fiji Bitter Army Bears), D Roberts (Waitakere), I Sagaitu, K Salusalu (Lautoka), I Toga, K Vatubua (Hyundai Bulldogs), U Wainidroa (Fish Nadi Dragons), K Waisora. Coach: Graham Murray. Odds: 1,000-1.

GROUP 2

NEW ZEALAND (seeded)

Perennial under-achievers. Good on paper, the Kiwis frustratingly lack polish in performance, hence the recent series whitewash by Australia. A bigger mystery, still, is the omission of Innes, when Iro and Kemp, his Leeds colleagues, are included. *Should leading* performers Paul, Halligan, Timu, Ridge and Williams, shine, a final place is not impossible. Jones and *Barnett are dynamic new talents.*

Backs: R Barnett (Cronulla), R Blackmore (Auckland), G Freeman (Penrith), D Halligan (Sydney Bulldogs), S Hoppe (Auckland), K Iro (Leeds), S Jones (Auckland), G Ngamu (Auckland), H Paul (Wigan), M Ridge (Manly, captain), J Timu (Sydney Bulldogs), R Wiki (Canberra), J Williams (Sydney Bulldogs). Forwards: S Eru (Auckland), M Horo (Sydney Wests), T Iro (Sydney City), S Kearney (Auckland), T Kemp (Leeds), J Lomax (Canberra), J Lowrie (Sydney City), H Okesene (Auckland), Q Pongia (Canberra), B Stuart (Sydney Wests), B Tuuta (Castleford). Coach: Frank Endacott. Odds: 6-1.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Only country where rugby league is the national sport, a *legacy of Australian workers. In 33* internationals, they have only won in the stifling heat of home. Frozen *out on last visit here in 1987,* literally. "The weather will not be a problem to us this time," said Adrian Lam, the scrum-half and captain, and the country's other famous export.

M Angra (Hagen Eagles), M Bai (Port Moresby), B Biri (Port Moresby), D Buko (Goroka), A Emil (Port Moresby), T Evei (Goroka), S Gene (Goroka), D Gomia (Goroka), A Joseph (Rabaul), J Kops (Hagen Eagles), A Lam (Sydney City, captain), B Noi (Hagen Eagles), J Okul (Moorebank), E Paiyo (Port Moresby), S Pinpin (Mendi Muruks), D Reeka (Lae), L Soibat (Rabaul), R Tele, P Thomas (Mendi Muruks), M Tiri (Hagen Eagles), N Yer (Mendi Muruks). Coach: Joe Tokam. Odds: 500-1.

TONGA

No Jonah Lomu and, in the last week, more problems with two defections. In the furious swapping of national allegiances, Jim Dymock and John Hopoate went over to Australia. "Losing them is like turning up at the Masters and finding you have left your driver and putter at home," McClennan, the coach, said.

Backs: A Amone (Halifax), P Howlett (Parramatta), *L Leilua (Otahuhu), M Mafi* (Kolomua), U Taufa (Canberra), T Vaikona (Hull), J Veikoso (Westbalconen), W Wolfgramm (Narrandera). Forwards: P *Amato (Mua), A Dymock (Moorepark),* S Finau (Canberra), A Guttenbeil (Manly), L Hansen (Widnes), S Haumono (Manly), T Lia'ava (Otahuhu), T Lilur (Leigh), D Mann (Auckland, captain), G Mann (Leeds), M Masella (Illawarra), T Tonga (Kolomua), F Watene (Auckland). Coach: Mike McClennan. Odds: 500-1.

[illegible]

WALES (seeded)

Predators, just, in "group of death". European champions, with a third of the squad pledged to the land of their grandfathers after qualification change. Newcomers have given Wales ballast up front. Wigan front-row a significant strength and plenty of Dragons who can fly in the back line. The hillsides should rejoice at a last *four* place.

Backs: P Atcheson (Oldham), A Bateman (Cronulla), J Davies (Warrington, captain), J Devereux (Widnes), K Ellis (North Queensland), P Ford (Salford), S Gibbs (St Helens), J Griffiths (St Helens), A Hadley (Widnes), I Harris (Warrington), G Stephens (Castleford), A Sullivan (St Helens). Forwards: D Busby (St Helens), N Cowie (Wigan), K Cunningham (St Helens), R Eyres (Leeds), M Hall (Wigan), M Jones (Warrington), *P Moriarty (Halifax), M Perrett* (Halifax), R Phillips (Workington), S Quinnell (Wigan), K Skerrett (Wigan), R Webster (Salford), D Young (Salford). Coach: Clive Griffiths. Odds: 20-1.

FRANCE

World Cup pioneers: nice idea, shame about France's record. Dazzlingly brilliant or woefully awful. More consistent of late. Pushed Wales close three times, yet lost each time. High point of the summer, a draw with New Zea*land. Jacques Fouroux's new re*gional competition a timely fillip, in which Garcia, Banet and Fages excelled. Unsafe bet for last four.

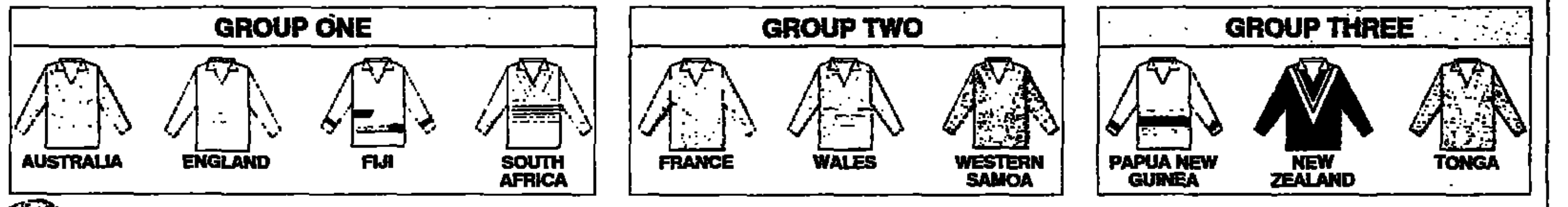
Backs: V Banet (Limoux), F Banquet (Sheffield), P Chamorin (St Estève), B Coles (Catalan), D Despin (Villeneuve), P Entat (Avignon, captain), P Fages (Pia), D Fraisse (Workington), J-M Garcia (St Estève). Forwards: P Acroue (Avignon), C Baudouin (Carpentras), H Boudebza (St Estève), D Cabestany (Catalan), L Hebert (Pia), K Jawuo (Pia), P Jampy (St Estève), P Mons (Carcassonne), G Tallec (Wigan), F Tebddo (Limoux), M Tisseyre (Limoux), P Torreilles (Pia), T Valero (Lézignan). Coach: Ivan Greseque. Odds: 100-1.

WESTERN SAMOA

Welsh blood has run cold since *defeat by Western Samoa in the* 1991 union World Cup. Now they are back in the Principality and quite capable of making history repeat itself. *Lowe,* Wigan's former coach, has scoured the globe and got pledges to the old country from Tuigamala, Schuster, Ropati, Solomona, Tony Tuimavave and Tatupu — names to make opponents quiver.

F Afoa (Penrith), M Ellis (Albi), L Koko, B Laumatia (Cronulla), D Mesa (Auckland), V Matautia (St Helens), S Panapa (Salford), A Perelini (St Helens), R Piva (Auckland), W Pocking (Auckland), T Ropati (Auckland), J Schuster (Halifax, captain), M Stefano (North Harbour), S Solomona (Auckland), H Sulivale (Sydney City), W Swann (Auckland), T Tatupu (Auckland), V Tuigamala (Wigan), S Tuilaepa (Narrandera), P Tuimavave (North Harbour), T Tuimavave (Auckland), E Va'a (Auckland), J Vagana (Auckland), N Vagana (Auckland). Coach: Graham Lowe. Odds: 80-1.

WHERE AND WHEN TO WATCH THE WORLD CUP



GROUP ONE

Oct 7 England v Australia Wembley 3.00pm* Oct 11 England v Fiji Wigan 7.30pm
Oct 8 Fiji v South Africa Keighley 2.30pm Oct 14 Australia v Fiji Huddersfield 2.00pm
Oct 10 Australia v S Africa Gateshead 8.15pm Oct 14 England v S Africa Leeds 7.00pm

GROUP TWO

Mon Oct 9 Wales v France Cardiff 8.00pm
Thu Oct 12 France v Western Samoa Cardiff 8.00pm
Sun Oct 15 Wales v Western Samoa Swansea 6.00pm

GROUP THREE

Sun Oct 8 New Zealand v Tonga Warrington 6.00pm
Tue Oct 10 Papua New Guinea v Tonga Hull 6.15pm
Fri Oct 13 New Zealand v Papua New Guinea St Helens 8.00pm

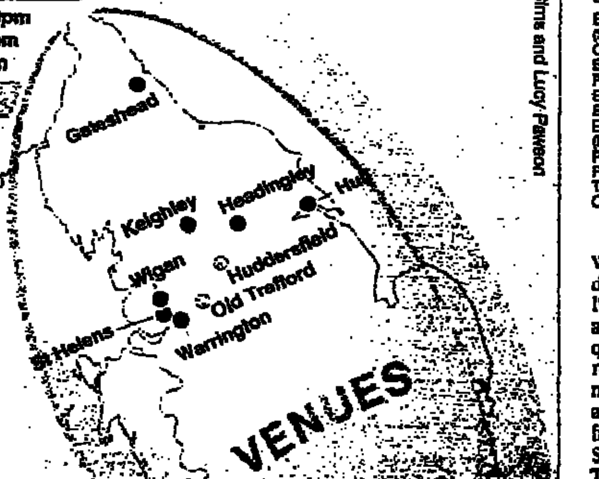
winner group 1 v winner group 3
Sat Oct 21 Old Trafford 3.00pm*

Runners up group 1 v winner group 2
Sun Oct 22 Huddersfield 3.00pm*

Sat Oct 28 Wembley 2.50pm*

YEAR	HOST COUNTRY	WINNERS	R'up
1954	France	Great Britain	France
1957	Australia	Australia	GB
1960	England	Great Britain	Australia
1968	Australia/NZ	Australia	France
1970	England	Australia	GB
1972	France	Great Britain	Australia
1975	both hemispheres	Australia	GB
1977	Australia	Australia	GB
1985-88	both hemispheres	Australia	NZ
1989-92	both hemispheres	Australia	GB

*Live on BBC1



Graphic by Geoffrey Sims and Lucy Pawson

Griffiths chooses to gamble on Ellis

By Christopher Irvine

ALTHOUGH a constant presence at scrum half in the nine games since the Wales rugby league team re-emerged in *1991, the selection of Kevin* Ellis yesterday for their opening World Cup match with France on Monday is taking something of a risk.

Ellis has not played for several months since a spell with North Queensland Cowboys in the summer. He is out of contract at Warrington and looking for a club to take him on in the short term before he returns to Australia in the new year, although the former Wales B scrum half is another *being linked to a return to* rugby union.

Clive Griffiths, the Wales coach, was no doubt mindful of *Ellis's last appearance* at Ninian Park, Cardiff, when, alongside Jonathan Davies at half back, the pair were instru*mental* in defeating England for the first time in 18 years.

Griffiths said that he always had Ellis earmarked for the position and he had every confidence in him. "I *might* end up with egg on my face, but I don't think so," he said.

Iestyn Harris, after appearances at stand-off half, centre and wing, takes on a fourth role, as full back. Scott Quinnell is still awaiting his debut, with Griffiths deciding to leave alone the pack that played so well in winning the European championship.

Tomorrow, Fiji meet South Africa at Keighley in the first of the group games, a match of contrasting styles between the running extravagance of the islanders and a side of muscular, but untested talents. New Zealand have struggled in their preparations, but their problems are *minor* compared to those of withdrawals and absentees that have hit Tonga, their opponents at Warrington.

WALES (v France, in Cardiff, Monday): I Harris (Warrington); J Devereux (Widnes), S Gibbs (St Helens), A Bateman (Cronulla), A Sullivan (St Helens); *J Davies* (Warrington, captain), K Ellis (North Queensland); K Skerrett (Wigan), M Hall (Wigan), D Young (Salford), P Moriarty (Halifax), *M Perrett* (Halifax), R Ayres (Leeds). Substitutes: N Cowie (Wigan), K Cunningham (St Helens), R Phillips (Workington), A Hadley (Widnes).

هكذا من الأصل

Unorthodox Claydon swings into overdrive

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN BERLIN

THE shape would suggest a career as a rugby league forward, a linebacker or, perhaps, a couch potato. So, in fact, would a first glance at the swing. As so often, however, an assumption based on appearance would prove not just deceptive, but downright wrong.

Yesterday, Russell Claydon, the comfortable shape in question, produced a second round of 61, 11 under par, to move into the lead in the Mercedes German Masters at the Motzener See Golf and Country Club and confirm that he is a golfer of ability, albeit of eccentric method.

Claydon's total of 127, 17 under par, left him a shot ahead of Anders Forsbrand, of Sweden, another of the many to take advantage of the ideal scoring conditions. The halfway cut fell at two under par, equalling the lowest of the season. Sam Torrance, needing just over £980 to go back to No 1 in the Volvo European Order of Merit, will do so after scraping in on 141, three under par.

Great Britain and Ireland unless stated

127: R Claydon 66, 61. 128: A Forsbrand (Swe) 64, 64. 130: P-U Johansson (Swe) 64, 66. 131: F Lindgren (Swe) 68, 63. 132: P Mitchell 68, 64, J Parnevik (Swe) 68, 64. 133: M-A Jimenez (Sp) 66, 67, R Goosen (SA) 64, 69, P Hedblom (Swe) 67, 66; B Langer (Ger) 67, 66. 134: A Sherborne 69, 65; P Eales 65, 69; J Haeggman (Swe) 67, 67, J Sandelin (Swe) 67, 67; S Luna (Sp) 67, 67; J Payne 68, 66; T Lehman (US) 67, 67. 135: G Turner (NZ) 67, 68. 136: V Singh (Fiji) 73, 63, I Garrido (Sp) 70, 66; D J Russell 67, 69; A Bossert (Switz) 69, 67. 137: B Marchbank 69, 68; R McFarlane 73, 64; S Richardson 69, 68; S Tinning (Den) 67, 70; R Boxall 71, 66; K Eriksson (Swe) 64, 73. 138: R Allenby (Aus) 71, 67; E Simsek (Ger) 74, 64; P Teravainen (US) 69, 69; E O'Connell 70, 68; R Barhorst (Ger) 71, 67. 139: C Mason 72, 67; P Curry 70, 69; R Karlsson (Swe) 69, 70; J Rivero (Sp) 69, 70; F Tarnaud (Fr) 75, 64; S Grappasonni (It) 68, 71; M Mackenzie 67, 72; S Ames (Trin) 69, 70; V Fernandez (Arg) 71, 68; A Lyle 67, 72; M Lanner (Swe) 69, 70. 140: G Levenson (SA) 67, 73; R Drummond 71, 69; P O'Malley (Aus) 70, 70; M Davis 69, 71; M-A Martin (Sp) 68, 72; A Cotter 69, 71; S Struver (Ger) 69, 71, H Thul (Ger) 70, 70; P Baker 71, 69. 141: S Torrance 71, 70; P Way 71, 70; A Murray 71, 70; W Westner (SA) 71, 70; P Broadhurst 71, 70; R Rafferty 71, 70; M Campbell (NZ) 74, 67; J Spence 70, 71; J Coceres (Arg) 68, 73. 142: J Townsend (US) 68, 74; G Orr 75, 67, M Besanceney (Fr) 73, 69, J Van de Velde (Fr) 70, 72.

It was, however, Claydon's day. The 29-year-old former Walker Cup player from Cambridge is an advocate of the rare three-finger overlap grip and his swing is very short. Fortunately, he is not just big — 6ft 2in and 16st, according to the handbook ("must be the Fantasy Island tour book", Claydon grinned) — he is also strong.

Eddie Birchenough, the professional at Royal Lytham and St Annes, Claydon's long-time coach and the man who keeps the swing on track, confirmed: "Russ is the strongest man I know. He is built like a giant, but he has got a great touch and he is a lovely man with a benign temperament.

"He has always enjoyed his golf and played it with a smile and I have to confess I am more fan than coach. If I could only watch one person play for the rest of my life, it would be Russ. I love the way he flights the ball."

Birchenough is "absolutely amazed" that Claydon has yet to win on the Tour. He was rookie of the year in 1990 when he was second in the Volvo Open di Firenze, but that remains his best finish. A prolific winner as an amateur — he was the English champion in 1988 — Claydon confessed to Birchenough that, in Italy, he had had all the same feelings he had as an amateur and done all the same things, but it had not worked.

The dent to his confidence ensured journeyman status ever since — he is now 65th on the money-list with £87,359 and has not finished higher than 28th in a season.

Yesterday, Claydon, who eschews the fitness regimens of the Faldos and the Normans, was ready to go back to bed by elevenses, a great day's work already done. He had had 12 birdies and 26 putts in his 61. "What have you done with the golf course?" Erwin Langer, the co-promoter of the event, asked as he proffered a bottle of champagne to celebrate a new course record, two better than the 63 by Ernie Els last year.

The barrage of birdies equalled the Tour record, as did the halfway total of 17 under par, and the only blemishes came late on, after a run of seven birdies in the eight holes from the 16th. "I started thinking about breaking 60 and that was a crucial mistake," Claydon, who started at the 10th and went out in 29, six under par, confessed. He three-putted from 20 feet for a bogey five at the 6th and missed a six-foot birdie chance at the short 7th before normal service was resumed with birdies at the 8th and 9th.

Mere mortals drilled in orthodoxy might find it hard to assess the Claydon swing and Birchenough gave a clue: "If, at the top of the backswing, there's a slight flail, he's swinging well. If Russ has got time for the flail, that's when he's at his very best."

HUGH ROUTLEDGE

Adrian Cotton, of Oldroyd Publishing, plays across the water at the 9th at The Tytherington yesterday

Barrowmore take their last chance

Mel Webb on the late charge that secured a place in the challenge final at La Manga

THE wind howled, the rain tumbled down like stair-rods: for all its excellence as a golfing venue, The Tytherington Club, where the North East regional final of *The Times* MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge was held yesterday, was not a pleasant place to be.

The most inhospitable conditions experienced in this year's round of regional finals were expected to peg the scores back dramatically and, for a large part of the day, they did precisely that.

Seton Healthcare Group led for more than 90 minutes and they could be forgiven for believing that they had claimed a place in the national final, to be held at La Manga in November. Their total of 82 Stableford points, which, at the time, led by eight clear points, looked unbeatable.

The tension in the leading team mounted as, one by one, the opposition came in and failed to challenge their total. With two groups to go, they still led by eight; with one left out on the course, their lead was cut to two by the quartet from Optical Fibres Ltd. The prize, it seemed, was theirs.

The celebrations had started, albeit in fairly muted fashion, for they knew that the weather had moderated as the day had gone on and high scoring was possible for the first time in the day. Could they hold off the late challenges?

They could not; and their disappointment was palpable when the last team on the course, from Barrowmore Village Settlement, wandered in, cold, wet but triumphant, with a score of 84.

In the prevailing conditions it was a remarkable performance. The Tytherington course held up well, but the amount of water it had shipped, together with the blustering wind, meant that it was playing long and tortuously difficult.

Barrowmore's team of Mark McNamee, Nigel Williams, Terry Allen and Allan Munro were the highest qualifiers in the region, but had no great expectations that they would repeat their form at The Tytherington.

"When we saw the weather this morning, we thought that 85 would be the score to beat," McNamee said. "We were pretty hyped-up for the competition, but we deliberately did not work our scores out on the way round. We just tried to concentrate on playing well. In fact, we didn't know exactly what we had scored until we saw it go up on the scoreboard."

Barrowmore played solidly on the front nine, but their winning score revolved around the three holes after the turn. McNamee took the bold line on the 10th, going across all sorts of rubbish on the right-to-left dogleg with a drive of 370 yards downwind. A chip from 40 yards and two putts from 12 feet gave him three points. Munro came out of a greenside bunker to three feet and sank a downhill putt for three more points.

Another six points followed on the 199-yard 11th, where Allen and Williams both hit the green with five-woods. Two net birdies for three points apiece were followed by a seven-point score on the 12th, where McNamee got a par five for three points and Allen hit a splendid five-wood to four feet and made the putt for a gross birdie four, net eagle three, for four points.

The regional final series continues on Monday with the South Midlands event at the Forest of Arden.

RESULTS: 84: Barrowmore Village Settlement. 82: Seton Healthcare Group plc. 80: Optical Fibres. 74: Boddington Pub Company Lace Mawer. 72: Walker Smith & Way. 71: Oldroyd Publishing Group Ltd, Iceland Frozen Foods plc. 70: Paramount plc, Financial Management Bureau Ltd. 69: TSB Bank North-West Area, Willis Corroon Management (IOM) Ltd, The Paper Makers Allied Trades Association SCC Ltd. 67: Manchester Publicity Association. 66: City Electrical Factors Ltd. 65: Alexander Binzel UK Ltd. 64: Barclays Life Northern Area. 60: Allied Publicity Services Ltd. 59: Nuclear Electric plc. 58: Arthur Andersen Hodgsons. 57: Rosler Scragg Ltd. 54: Nightfreight plc. 48: The Co-operative Bank plc. No return: Halliwell Landau

SPORT IN BRIEF

England triumph in overwhelming style

ENGLAND, stunned by their first defeat at the hands of Wales on Thursday, put matters right in their final match of the women's home international golf championship against Ireland at Wrexham yesterday, recording a remarkable 9-0 victory to clinch their fourth successive title.

They ended the championship with two wins from three starts, whereas Wales, beaten 5-4 by Scotland in an enthralling clash yesterday, had 1½ points to take the runners-up spot. Ireland were third.

England had something to spare in two of their three foursomes wins against Ireland and then chalked up a procession of singles wins in the afternoon. The highlights included Julie Hall's last-green success over her Curtis Cup colleague, Eileen Rose Power, and Elaine Ratcliffe's 2 and 1 victory over Hazel Kavanagh, which preserved her 100 per cent record for the week. Ratcliffe scored five points from five matches while Karen Stupples took five out of six.

Haining needs partner

ROWING: Peter Haining, three times the world lightweight sculls champion, is an uncertain starter among the 165 crews in the Pairs Head from Hammersmith to Mortlake today. Haining, who said after retaining his lightweight title in Finland that his aim is heavyweight selection for the Olympic Games in Atlanta next year, is on the official starting list in a double scull with James Cracknell, of Leander, but the entry has not pleased the Amateur Rowing Association selectors and Haining has confirmed he will not race with Cracknell. Already five kilograms heavier than in Finland, he is still determined to race today and is hoping to find another partner for the event. Yesterday, he was trying to contact his fellow Scot, the 1992 Henley Diamond's winner, Rory Henderson.

Philippoussis wins

TENNIS: Mark Philippoussis, of Australia, beat Paul Haarhuis, of Holland, 6-1, 6-2 in Kuala Lumpur yesterday to reach the semi-finals of the Salem Open. Philippoussis, 18, the world No 90, said he had expected a battle against the more experienced world No 22, but found himself in charge after racing to a 5-0 lead. Philippoussis served 16 aces in the match for a total of 73 aces in eight sets so far this week. He next faces the No 4 seed, Patrick McEnroe, of the United States, who earlier beat Renzo Furlan, of Italy, in straight sets, 7-5, 6-4.

Brothers called up

CRICKET: Wendell Labrooy, the Sri Lanka fast-medium bowler and younger brother of the former Test bowler, Graeme Labrooy, was yesterday selected for his first tour, the forthcoming Sharjah one-day tournament. Labrooy's inclusion, in place of the injured left-arm paceman, Chaminda Vaas, is the only change in the squad who returned on Thursday from their tour of Pakistan, where Sri Lanka won both the Test and the one-day series. The Sharjah competition, which starts on Monday and ends on October 20, also features Pakistan and West Indies.

China strike gold

GYMNASTICS: Li Xiaoshuang led China to victory in the men's team event at the world championships in Sabae, Japan, yesterday with a sparkling performance in the optional exercises. China took the lead from their first apparatus, the pommel horse, and built up a margin of 1.862 points — enough to retain the title they won in Dortmund last year. Japan, who had held a slender lead after the compulsory exercises, took the silver medal and Romania the bronze. Russia, the favourites, were fourth overall after finishing only eleventh in the compulsories.

World Cup proposal

CRICKET: Sir Richard Hadlee, the former New Zealand bowler, yesterday proposed a World Cup for Test cricket. He wants a so-called "super Test" to be held once in three or four years. One match in a regular five-Test series could be played as a preliminary for the "super Test." Bonus points could be awarded for victories, highest wickets taken or highest runs, providing incentives for teams to play more exciting cricket.

☐ Steve Elworthy, 30, a South African all-rounder, will stand in for Wasim Akram as Lancashire's overseas player next year. Wasim will be touring England with Pakistan.

BASKETBALL

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' CUP: Second round, second leg: Real Madrid 78 Sheffield Sharks 75 (Real Madrid win 145-132 on agg).

CYCLING

TUNJA, Colombia: World championships: Women: Time-trial (26 kilometres, Tuta and Tunja). 1, J Longo (Fr) 44min 27sec; 2, C Hughes (Can) at 1min 11sec; 3, K Watt (Aus) at 1:25; 4, V Polkhanova (Russ) at 2:35; 5, K Kurreck (US) at 2:50; 6, J Golay (US) at 3:15; 7, C Marsal (Fr) at 3:25; 8, Z Zabirova (Russ) at 3:26; 9, M Corrador (Col) at 4:42; 10, T Vikstedt-Nyman (Fin) at 5:15; 13, Y McGregor (GB) at 5:39.

FOOTBALL

AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Southampton 2 Watford 2.
PONTINS LEAGUE: First division: Bolton Wanderers 0 Everton 0; Derby County 3 Nottingham Forest 2; Sheffield Wednesday 3 West Bromwich Albion 1; Notts County 1 Tranmere Rovers 4. Second division: Bradford City 1 Coventry City 2; Sunderland 3 Preston North End 0; York City 2 Hull City 1. Third division: Stockport County 3 Chester City 2.
SCHOOLS MATCHES: Full Time Trophy: Cannock 1 Telford United 0.
BRAZILIAN NATIONAL LEAGUE: Group A: Cruzeiro 2 Guarani 0; Parana 1 Paysandu 0. Group B: São Paulo 1 Portuguesa 0
EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: Group four (in Varazdin): Croatia 2 Italy 2. Group five (in Minsk): Belorussia 0 Czech Republic 3.

GOLF

WREXHAM: Women's home international championship: Wales 5 England 4 (Wales names first: Foursomes: L Dermott and B Jones lost to J Hall and L Walton 2 and 1; L Davis and E Pilgrim bt E Duggleby and E Fields 4 and 3; V Thomas and D Richards lost to E Ratcliffe and K Stupples 7 and 6. Singles: Dermott bt Walton one hole; Jones bt S Lambert 2 and 1; Pilgrim lost to Stupples 4 and 3; Davis bt J Oliver two holes; K Stark lost to Ratcliffe 4 and 3; Thomas bt Duggleby 2 and 1). England 9 Ireland 0 (England names first: Foursomes: J Hall and L Walton bt E R Power and H Kavanagh one hole; E Ratcliffe and K Stupples bt E Higgins and A O'Sullivan 5 and 4; E Duggleby and E Fields bt Y Cassidy and S Fanagan 3 and 2. Singles: Hall bt Power one hole; Ratcliffe bt Kavanagh 2 and 1; J Oliver bt Cassidy 4 and 3; Walton bt Higgins 2 and 1; Duggleby bt D McCarthy one hole; Stupples bt O'Sullivan 4 and 3). Scotland 5 Wales 4 (Scotland names first: Foursomes: A Rose and L Roxburgh bt L Dermott and B Jones 4 and 3; L Nicholson and C Agnew bt E Pilgrim and L Davis 3 and 2; S McMaster and J Ford lost to V Thomas and D Richards 6 and 5. Singles: Rose lost to Dermott, 2 and 1; H Monaghan bt Jones, 2 and 1; Roxburgh bt Pilgrim, 5 and 4; A Laing lost to Richards, 4 and 3; Agnew lost to Davis, two holes; Nicholson bt Thomas, one hole).
ZURICH: Senior Pro-Am Lexus Trophy: First round (Great Britain and Ireland unless stated): 69: R Campagnoli (It), L Higgins. 70: D Creamer, R Vines (Aus), J Fourie (SA). 71: D Butler, V Tshabalala, P Butler, J M Roca (Sp), N Coles, A Garrido (Sp). 72: R Verwey (SA), B Waites, M Gregson, T Horton, J Morgan. 73: R Fidler, C Evans (US), H Schumacher (Switz). 74: R Whitehead, M Murphy, M Bembridge. 75: D Simon (US), T Britz (SA), D Snell, F Abreu (Sp), N Ratcliffe (Aus). 76: T Squires, D Huish, P Ferranti (US). 77: H Muscroft, H Fraser (US). 78: D Jimenez (US), B Whittle, W Sauer (US). 82: B Carter.
ORLANDO, Florida: Walt Disney World Classic: First round (United States unless stated): 62: C Pauleon. 64: C Parry (Aus), K Fergus. 65: M Heinen, J Delsing, R Tway, S Lowery. 66: E Fiori, J Cook, C Perry, R Cochran, D Forsman, J Furyk, F Funk, K Gibson, S Stricker, P Blackmar, P Burke. 67: C DiMarco, M Brooks, R Black, S Rintoul (Aus), G Sauers, G Waite (NZ), G Boros, T Kite, H Sutton, M O'Meara, R Fehr, M Bawson, S Simpson, T Tyner, G Day, B Bryant, R Lohr. British score: 73: D Feherty.
MIYOSHI, Japan: Men's tournament: Second round: Leading scores (Japan unless stated): 142: K Maita 72, 70. 143: M Kuramoto 69, 74, H Miyase 68, 75. 144: K Kuwahara 73, 71; R Kawagichi 70, 74. 145: H Ueda 76, 69; K Takahashi 71, 74; P McWhinney (Aus) 71, 74, K Fukabori 71, 74; H Kase 70, 75; N Yuhara 70, 75; Y Kaneko 70, 75.
YOKOSHIBA, Japan: Women's tournament: Second round (Japan unless stated): 140: L Neumann (Swe) 72, 68. 141: K Arai 70, 71; 142: J Yasui 73, 69; M McGann (US) 71, 71; 143: M McGuire (NZ) 72, 71; K Higo, 72, 71, M Hirase 69, 74; 144: F Muraguchi 73, 71; A Nakano 72, 72; Haori Harada 72, 72, A Nicholas (GB) 70, 74; M Hirata 69, 75; A Sorenstam (Swe) 68, 76.
GOLF FOUNDATION TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP FOR SCHOOLS: Regional qualifying rounds: Hilton Park, Glasgow: Winner: 242: Bishopbriggs High School, Glasgow (K Caldwell 84, A Drennan 77, J Ferris 81). Second: Castlehead High School, Paisley. Third: Lomond School, Helensburgh. Best individual score: R McLeod (Castlehead High School) 75. Bramall Park, Stockport: Winner: 247: Glossop Dale Comprehensive (G White 74, M Townend 88, D Hinchliffe 85). Second: 248: Hulme Grammar School, Oldham (M Walton 81, D Knuckley 86, I Osbaldeston 81). Third: 252: Chapel-en-le Frith High School (L Marshall 76, S Richardson 89, N Woolley 87). Best individual score: G White 74 (Glossop Dale Comprehensive).

GYMNASTICS

SABAE, Japan: World championships: Men: Team event: Final standings: 1, China 585.619pts; 2, Japan 583.558; 3, Romania 581.947; 4, Russia 580.971; 5, Ukraine 580.934; 6, Belarus 560.158; 7, Germany 558.948; 8, South Korea 558.821; 9, United States 558.784; 10, Bulgaria 557.285; 11, Italy 556.361; 12, France 553.524; 13, Hungary 550.462; 14, Canada 546.889; 15, Switzerland 544.112; 16, Australia 542.336; 17, Great Britain 538.537; 18, Kazakhstan 528.450; 19, Czech Republic 526.450; 20, Argentina 522.775; 21, Greece 520.525; 22, Puerto Rico 510.626; 23, Taiwan 454.875; 24, Ireland 397.200. Leading individual standings: 1, Li Xiaoshuang (China) 114.786; 2, H Tanaka (Japan) 113.737; 3, V Scherbo (Belo) 113.648; 4, Y Chechi (It) 113.249; 5, V Belenki (Ger) 113.149; 6, Y Hatakeda (Japan) 112.886; 7, J Jovtchev (Bul) 112.849; 8, J Roethlisberger (US) 112.812; 9, D Nishikawa (Japan) 112.761; 10, Zhang Jinjing (China) 112.749; 11, A Wecker (Ger) 112.585; 12, R Chaapov (Ukraine) 112.374; 13, Z Supola (Hun) 112.262; 14, K Dounev (Bul) 112.249; 15, N Sandro (Rom) 112.237; 16, D Karbonenko (Russ) 112.236; 17, Han Yoo-soo (S Kor) 112.173; 18, B Preti (It) 112.162; 19, Jung Jin-soo (S Kor) 112.125; 20, C Letic (Rom) 111.987; 21, A Ianculescu (Rom) 111.975; 22, N Strola (Rom) 111.786; 23, J Carballo (Sp) 111.449; 24, V Chamnenko (Ukraine) 111.425; 26, A Kan (Belo) 111.312, P Casimir (Fr) 111.312; 28, Lee Joo-hyng (S Kor) 111.137; 29, E Chabaev (Russ) 110.987; 30, B Wilson (US) 110.937; 31, J Lynch (US) 110.787; 32, A Voropaev (Russ) 110.724; 33, I Ivankov (Russ) 110.624; 34, T Sato (Japan) 110.450; Li Donghua (Switz) 110.450; 36, D Lunchev (Bul) 110.025; 37, A Kratsov (Aus) 109.974; 38, S Fedorchenko (Kaz) 109.825; 39, A Nemov (Russ) 109.537; 40, S Csollany (Hun) 109.500; 41, A Svetlichnyi (Ukr) 109.462; 42, M Franke (Ger) 109.275; 43, A Lapkin (Belo) 109.250; 44, K Hristozov (Bul) 109.175; 45, J Fiit (Cz) 109.075.

HOCKEY

CLUB CHAMPIONS' TOURNAMENT (at The Hague): Amsterdam 4 Teddington 2.
CLUB MATCH: Old Loughtonians 4 Indian Gymkhana 2.

ICE HOCKEY

BRITISH LEAGUE: First division: Dumfries 11 Paisley 3; Guildford 7 Medway 7

MOTOR SPORT

BARCELONA: European motorcycling Grand Prix (500cc): Leading practice times: 1, A Criville (Sp) Honda 1min 47.546sec; 2, M Doohan (Aus) Honda 1:47.846; 3, L Cadalora (It) Yamaha 1:47.824; 4, L Capirossi (It) Honda 1:47.998; 5, A Barros (Brazil) Honda 1:48.173; 6, S Itoh (Japan) Honda 1:48.186

REAL TENNIS

BORDEAUX: French Open: Women's championship: First round: (France unless stated): R Giovannini (GB) bt L Frachon 1-6, 6-2, 6-1. E Wood (GB) bt E Camp 6-3, 6-2; B Bidouze bt J Hames (GB) 6-5, 6-1.

SPEEDWAY

PREMIER LEAGUE: Ipswich 51 Peterborough 45; Sheffield 49 Poole 47; Middlesbrough 45, Glasgow 50. Postponed: Oxford v Exeter (waterlogged track).

TENNIS

GLASGOW: Maureen Connolly Trophy: Great Britain Under-21 v United States Under-21: Singles (Great Britain names first): A Wainwright bt M Catlin 7-6, 6-4; E Jeffs bt K Sanderson 7-6, 6-2; K Cross lost to S Sureephong 6-1, 6-4; Wainwright bt F Taylor 6-3, 7-5. Doubles: Wainwright and K Warne-Holland bt Catlin and Sureephong 6-4, 6-4. Great Britain take winning 6-1 lead.
NOTTINGHAM: LTA Autumn satellite tournament: Women: quarter-finals (Great Britain unless stated): A Tordoff bt S Olsen (Den) 7-6, 7-5; K Praszek (Den) bt K Kamer (Ger) 6-2, 7-5; O Barabanschikova (Belorus) bt C Taylor 3-6, 6-3, 6-2; S Smith bt S Finer (Swe) 3-6, 6-0, 6-4.
ZURICH: Women's tournament: Second round: M Maleeva (Bul) bt Z Garrison Jackson (US) 3-6, 7-5, 6-3; I Majoli (Croatia) bt M Werdel (US) 6-2, 6-4; M De Swardt (SA) bt A Huber (Ger) 6-4, 3-6, 6-4; C Rubin (US) bt M Hingis (Switz) 6-2, 6-1.
TOULOUSE: Men's tournament: Second round: J Courier (US) bt R Gilbert (Fr) 6-4, 6-4; A Boetsch (Fr) bt S Pescosolido (It) 6-7, 7-5, 6-1. Quarter-finals: C Pioline (Fr) bt D Vacek (Cz) 6-4, 6-3; M Rosset (Switz) bt J Palmer (US) 7-6, 6-3
KUALA LUMPUR: Men's tournament: Quarter-finals: P McEnroe (US) bt R Furlan (It) 7-5, 6-4; M Philippoussis (Aus) bt P Haarhuis (Holl) 6-1, 6-2; M Rios (Chile) bt J Eltingh (Holl) 7-5, 6-4; C Caratti (It) bt R Krajicek (Holl) 6-2, 6-4

Hendry's lapses let Parrott through

FROM PHIL YATES IN BANGKOK

STEPHEN HENDRY makes the game of snooker look so preposterously easy most of the time that, when he does encounter the odd bad day, it comes as something of a shock. The world champion had one of those rare matches to forget in the first semi-final of the Thailand Classic here yesterday.

Starting the game on an unbeaten sequence of 13 matches stretching back to the British Open in April and seemingly full of confidence, Hendry was widely expected to beat John Parrott and progress to yet another final. However, it was the Liverpudlian who looked the more assured and went through with a 5-4 victory.

In today's best-of-17-frame final, Parrott meets Dene O'Kane, of New Zealand, or Nigel Bond, who were due to contest the second semi-final last night. Bond beat Parrott at the corresponding stage of the Red and White Challenge in Pakistan last month.

While devaluing Parrott's performance would be inappropriate, he was the first to admit that Hendry was not at his best, particularly in the normally solid safety department of his game. The Scot, usually such a reliable front-runner, was also mentally ragged in the closing phase of the contest.

"I had enough chances to win. I just didn't play well enough," Hendry said. "For some reason, the killer instinct wasn't there. I didn't have that feeling of intense concentration I had when I won the Regal Masters in Scotland a couple of weeks ago."

Parrott, coincidentally the last player to beat Hendry — in the quarter-finals of the British Open — led 2-1, but, 41-8 ahead in the fourth frame, he missed a simple red and Hendry put together an 88 clearance to level at 2-2.

When Hendry then accounted for the fifth frame with a run of 101 and added the sixth in dramatic circumstances on the final black to establish a 4-2 lead, Parrott was entitled to feel that he was destined for defeat.

Set to clear up in the sixth frame, Parrott's concentration was momentarily broken by a member of the capacity crowd sneezing as he addressed the brown. Although he stood up off the shot, the pot still eluded him and, to make matters worse, Hendry came perilously close to going in-off to a balk pocket after sinking the black.

Despite this setback, Parrott responded well in the seventh frame. When Hendry, leading 28-0, missed a difficult pink, Parrott constructed a 55 break to provide evidence that he was unprepared to sit back and accept elimination from the tournament without a fight.

The Hendry killer instinct was again lacking in the eighth frame. The world No 1, so adept at fashioning vital clearances under pressure, reached the colours only 17 points adrift, but missed the yellow.

By now, Parrott must have realised that Hendry was more vulnerable than is usually the case and he duly won a scrappy deciding frame 60-29, thanks largely to a break of 47, to enhance his already impressive record in overseas events.

RESULTS: Quarter-final: D O'Kane (NZ) bt D Finbow (Eng) 5-2. Semi-final: J Parrott (Eng) beat S Hendry (Scot) 5-4

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TENNIS 43

BRITAIN RETAINS TROPHY WITH A DAY TO SPARE

SPORT

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7 1995

RACING 44-45

MURPHY CLEARED TO RIDE AFTER 17-MONTH ABSENCE

World Cup platform offers rugby league chance to build bright future

England must make most of Wembley way

By Christopher Irvine

IN THROWING off its parochial chains and ascending the global stage provided by the Halifax World Cup today, *rugby league is at a crossroads.* The paths of England *and Australia are expected to* converge at Wembley again for the final in three weeks' time, when the sport is trusting it will have taken the first evolutionary step in its second century.

For the first 100 years, internationalism was ignored *as a way forward, but, with* ten nations competing in this tournament, albeit some of dubious quality, the sport has a platform on which to build and break out of its narrow confines. That is the goal, anyway.

If it is purely a feast in the *temporary lull in fighting over* the Super League and the *future direction for the league* code, it will be another chance wasted. Not that the tournament should want for entertainment. If there is one thing rugby league has right, it is the product on the pitch.

For two decades, Australia have been almost untouchable. By ignoring Super League players, they have balanced up the competition, on paper at least, but it would be a distortion of the truth to imagine the Kangaroos are weak. The new players might *be vulnerable on their first* visit to Wembley — six have appeared there, but only Brad Fittler, the captain, has experienced winning — but the overriding strength of the world champions is their immense depth of talent.

The losers today could still *go on to lift the World Cup, yet* the incentives to win the opening match are strong. The psychological factor apart, New Zealand would loom as a potential stumbling block in the semi-finals. "The *Kiwis are not a side we would* specially want to tangle with *early." Phil Larder, the England* coach, said.

The stricken Gary Connolly and Martin Offiah are potentially crippling losses, but the rump of the England side is that which overcame Australia, as Great Britain, in the epic 8-4 Wembley triumph of 12 months ago. In subsequently losing the series, *Ellery Hanley's mistake was to* change a winning formula too late, when Australia had cottoned on to his tactics. Win or lose, Offiah and Connolly are a formidable presence for Larder to bring in at a later stage.

For their understudies, John *Bentley, whose speed, if not* the equal of Offiah, is made up for by enormous strength, and *Kris Radlinski, whose call-up* after 28 first-team appearances for Wigan, Wembley is new territory. Australia are bound to test Radlinski, 19, under the high ball, but the youngster, after a week's aerial bombardment in training, should demonstrate he has the *temperament to cope.*

While opening the tournament *to a half-full* Wembley Stadium has been decried as madness, there is method in it for England. Australia have been beaten there in two of three visits since 1990. Before the ghosts could crowd in yesterday, the Australian party refused their eve-of-match invitation to tour the stadium.

"Wembley is always awesome for players who haven't *played there, especially as* English players feel comfortable there. *For those from* Wigan, it is their second home," Bob Fulton, the Australia coach said. "It is a concern, but, when we lost in 1990 and 1994, we went on to take the series and we did win *the last World Cup there."*

For want of one dropped *ball and a missed tackle,* Great Britain lost the World Cup in 1992. Steve Renouf shot through a gap 13 minutes from time for the winning try. He is one player the hosts will be relieved not to face, but, as *Shaun Edwards,* England's captain, has stressed, *Australia have chosen form players.*

There are known dangers — the irrepressible Fittler, Menzies, a forward, who has a try record that outstrips most backs, and the metronomic goal-kicking of Wishart — but it is also there in less celebrated quarters: the creativity of *Dymock at loose forward and* Hopoate's flair on the right flank. England will allow Bartrim room around the ruck area at their peril.

A key will be the timing of substitutes and, in a pack *reuniting a devastating* Wigan quartet of Platt, Betts, Clarke and Farrell, England possibly hold advantages. In the past two matches against Australia at Wembley, Edwards has been sin-binned and sent off. Eighty minutes are required of him, with Powell providing *the foil at half-back to his* captain's rapier opposite the *less experienced* Toovey.

I take England to win, just, and Diana Ross, should the opportunity at the opening festivities present itself, to *make* it two missed penalties in two World Cups after her *fluffed effort in the United* States in 1994. Many of those watching might struggle with it, but the world of rugby league will have arrived.

Portrait 46
Team guide 46

TEAMS

ENGLAND: K Radlinski (Wigan); J Robinson (Wigan), B-J Mather (Wigan), P Newlove (Bradford Bulls), J Bentley (Halifax); D Powell (Keighley Cougars), S Edwards (Wigan, captain); K Harrison (Halifax), L Jackson (Newcastle Knights), A Platt (Auckland Warriors), D Betts (Auckland Warriors), P Clarke (Sydney City Roosters), A Farrell (Wigan). Substitutes: B Goulding (St Helens), C Joynt (St Helens), N Pinkney (Keighley Cougars), S Houghton (Wigan).

AUSTRALIA: T Brasher (Sydney Tigers); R Wishart (Illawarra), M Coyne (Sydney St George), T Hill (Manly), J Hopoate (Manly); B Fittler (Penrith, captain), G Toovey (Manly); D Gillespie (Manly), W Bartrim (Sydney St George), M Carroll (Manly), S Menzies (Manly), D Pay (Sydney Bulldogs), J Dymock (Sydney Bulldogs). Substitutes: R O'Davis (Newcastle Knights), P Harragon (Newcastle Knights), M Johns (Newcastle Knights), J Smith (Sydney Bulldogs).

Referee: S Cummings (England).

DES JENSON

ENGLAND V AUSTRALIA

Shaun Edwards, the England captain, takes to the Wembley turf yesterday surrounded by team-mates

Dwyer pays price for Australia's failure in S Africa

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

BOB DWYER, who coached Australia to victory in rugby union's 1991 World Cup, paid the price yesterday for his failure to mount an adequate defence in South Africa this summer. After eight successive years at the helm — and ten years overall as national coach, during which his sides won 46 of 73 internationals — he makes way for Greg Smith, from New South Wales.

Thus, the bespectacled man, whose bright wit and inventive approach helped *Australia to dominate* world rugby, passes into history. That Dwyer was blessed with outstanding talent — Farr-Jones, Lynagh, Campese, Little and Horan — is incontestable, but even genius takes organisation: that showed to best effect against England, not in the 1991 final at Twickenham but four months earlier at the Sydney Football Stadium when Australia, leading 40-15, *played a game as near free of* error as rugby is likely to achieve.

Changes to the game's laws, however, affected Australia as they did England and, in June, England's 25-22 revenge during the World Cup quarter-final brought the vultures *hovering above Dwyer's curly* head. There might have been a stay of execution had Australia beaten New Zealand in the Bledisloe Cup series in August, but, like England before them, they were Jonah Lomu'd and that spelt the end.

Meanwhile, Wales have appointed Kevin Bowring as caretaker coach for the match against Fiji on November 11 after Alex Evans, the Australian, was forced to step down because he needs a shoulder operation.

Bowring, 41 and a teacher at Clifton College, has been successful with Wales A over the past three years and has coached many of the young players now pushing for places in the senior side. Bowring, a former London Welsh captain, remains a *strong candidate for the permanent* appointment, which can now, under the new regulations, become a paid post.

Bottom dwellers 43

Jackson boycotts domestic events

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

IN A disclosure that is embarrassing for Peter *Radford,* Great Britain's highest-ranking athletics official, Colin Jackson has announced that he will boycott all the main domestic meetings next year, with the exception of the *national Olympic* trials. Radford left a press conference *in London on Thursday* with the impression that he had *resolved his differences* with Jackson, the 110 metres hurdles world record-holder.

However, within 24 hours of Radford's message to the media that the worst of his troubles in athlete relation*ships were probably over,* it became clear they were not. *Jackson has been smarting* for three months over the dressing down he was given by Radford, the British Athletic Federation (BAF) executive chairman, for his withdrawal from the national championships, leaving Birmingham for Padua, Italy, where he was *paid to appear.*

The controversy resulted in Jackson failing to defend his world championship in Gothenburg in August and, in an *interview yesterday,* he said that he would never again compete in a *BAF meeting* while Radford was in his present job. "I have made up *my mind that,* after the way Radford spoke to me in his *office, lecturing me like a* schoolboy and virtually accusing me of lying, I can have nothing more to do with the man or his meetings," Jackson *said.*

That Jackson has personalised the issue is serious enough for Radford, but that he should have misled the media into thinking that he had spoken with Jackson recently *and moved towards* resolving their disagreement *should worry the sport.*

At the conference, Radford was asked whether, since the end of the season, he had patched up his differences with Jackson and Linford Christie. "I don't think that is *going to become a major* problem for us," he said.

*Asked whether he had spo*ken with the athletes or with their agent, Radford replied: "No, I have spoken to some of our athletes." To Jackson and *Christie?* "Yes." *Nuff Respect,* the Christie and Jackson management agency, said yesterday that Jackson had not spoken with Radford.

A *pay dispute* with the BAF last season resulted in the non-appearance of Jackson and Christie in meetings at Crystal Palace and Gateshead in July. Agreement was reached for them to appear at those ven*ues in August. Radford said* on Thursday that the issue was tackled too late, a mistake which would not be repeated.

Jackson: not speaking

Forward planning likely to give Shearer's place to Ferdinand

By David Miller

GARY LINEKER, England's *second-highest goalscorer* with 48, behind Bobby Charlton, once went eight games without a goal. This coincided with the wretched performances in the 1988 European championship finals. Alan Shearer, without a goal in seven matches since *the start of last season, ought* not to be too alarmed.

Thankfully, he is as calm about the drought as he could be. At yesterday's press conference at Bisham Abbey, after the morning training session, Shearer politely declined to be depressed, worried or even merely anxious.

All that Shearer would agree, *readily,* was *that* he would be disappointed to be omitted from the team to play against Norway in next Wednesday's friendly in Oslo. There is competition for places, he said, and that was good for the players and the team. The speculation, of course, *is whether Les Ferdinand's* form with Newcastle *will force him into the side* at Shearer's expense.

"My confidence is the same as ever and I'd like to think there's more to my game than *scoring," Shearer said, with* level-toned modesty. "Obviously, I'd be very disappointed [if dropped], but I've never taken my place for granted. Wright, Collymore, Ferdinand, Barmby, Sheringham — *they're all out there doing* well in the Premiership. You've got to have pride in your own performance. Rivalry can only be healthy for the *team."*

Shearer's self-estimation is correct. It *is his quality in* addition to scoring that makes him an important international player. He does not have the ball control to be a great *finisher, his goals coming* from strength, often from way out, more than finesse. His average of a goal every 3.6 matches — five in 18 — is nowhere near, say, the 1.3 of Jimmy Greaves, the 1.6 of Lineker or even the 2.1 average of David Platt.

Yet, *whether he is hitting* the bar, as against Colombia in *the recent goalless draw, or* the back of the net, you always know what you are going to get from him throughout the 90 minutes. Selfless effort. At international level, that is imperative.

It may be that Terry Venables will try the combina*tion of Ferdinand and* Barmby, given that Ferdinand is enjoying at club level the system marginally favoured by England; creating openings by midfield support for a single front player. Yet Ferdinand, who has scored three times in seven appearances, *would need to demonstrate* huge heart and commitment permanently to displace Shearer, a possible alternative being that they could play *together.*

Shearer, characteristically, expressed willingness to play in any system: alone, or with one or two partners up front. That flexibility, in fact, is the policy towards which Venables is aiming. The England coach said yesterday that he has already decided which system and individuals he will *use against Norway, to be* announced on Tuesday. Venables said that he is not influenced by Shearer's tem*porary lack of goals. "He's not* just a goalscorer," he observed, unaware of the player's own earlier comment. If there was a change, it would be "because I'd like to see someone else". A hint, maybe.

Elaborating on his tactical intentions leading up to next *year's finals, Venables said* that he was looking for collec*tive confidence in which* different formations could be achieved by only minor positional alterations, among players who had become familiar with each other. He cited the effective way the *Dutch are able to achieve this.*

Serious, significant, change *in system, Venables stressed,* would be altering from basic short-ball to long-ball. His ambition by next summer, in a squad in which there would be no automatic choices — excluding, we must suppose, goalkeeper — was to be able to adapt to what was needed *within the space of a few days.*

England's last appearance in *Oslo was the World Cup* qualifying debacle under Graham Taylor, when an ill-chosen team was defeated 2-0. Ferdinand was playing. "We *changed our team to accommodate their* players," he recalled yesterday. Venables will not be looking for revenge, but a compact performance away from home that withstands the rigours of ordinary but highly-organised opponents, top of their qualifying group ahead of Czechoslovakia and Holland. So do not expect many goals — from Shearer, *Ferdinand or anyone else.*

Ferdinand: in form

Croatia's target, page 42
FA seeks Wilkinson, page 42

Fifa to clamp down

A BAN on heading the ball *back to goalkeepers is being* considered by Fifa, the world governing body of football. The law on back-passes was changed in 1992 to prevent players from kicking the ball back to goalkeepers, but de*fenders have been allowed to* head it back or give it to the goalkeeeper from throw-ins since then.

However, Fifa now wants *to outlaw the two latter* options and a decision will be *taken at a meeting in Belfast* next March, the official newspaper of the German football *federation has reported.* The introduction of sudden-death play instead of penalties to decide knock-out matches and kick-ins to replace throw-ins will also be discussed.

Meanwhile, Lennart *Johansson, the president of* Uefa, European football's governing body, has called on national associations to oppose the European court opinion issued during the Bosman case last month that could *mean the the end of multi*-million pound transfers.

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Scandinavian leaders spearhead attack on Chirac's South Pacific programme

Euro ministers say French nuclear test undermines Union

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN LUXEMBOURG AND BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANCE'S latest nuclear test cast a pall over a European ministers' session in Luxembourg yesterday, clouding talk of an Atlantic free trade area and adding to a malaise among the smaller states over the Union's direction.

Anger over yesterday's high-yield test at Fangataufa atoll in the South Pacific echoed around Brussels and Luxembourg. The EU Commission abandoned its previous distance and said it that deplored the blast.

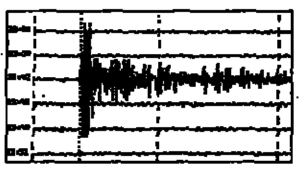
At a Luxembourg EU meeting, *Scandinavian ministers* led the attack on Hervé de Charette, the French Foreign *Minister*, charging him with flouting the wishes of the European people and undermining the Union. Ministers from all the EU states except Britain, Germany, Italy, Spain and Portugal spoke out against President Chirac.

"We are very, very disappointed," Lena Hjelm-Wallen, *the Swedish Foreign Minister*, said. "We had hoped that the reaction around the world would have stopped the tests." Niels Helveg-Petersen, the Danish Minister, said that German silence did not imply approval. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, noted that it was "up to France to justify" its decision to test. "There will be no more nuclear tests as far as the United Kingdom is concerned," he added.

The opposing states lamented the disarray which they said French behaviour was inflicting on the Union at a time when confidence was being sapped by doubts over monetary union and other issues. "It seems Chirac does not give a hoot about Europe," a senior Nordic official said. Mr Rifkind, however, said that it would *serve* to "*bring* home the fact that different member states have different foreign policy and defence priorities."

M de Charette said that *most of the noise was coming* from the media rather than other governments. "I do not *think this is damaging French* diplomacy," he said.

The French device had an explosive force estimated at six times greater than the bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945. The second explosion in the new series of tests was beneath Fangataufa atoll 750 miles southeast of Tahiti. It was "less than 110 kilotonnes", according to the Defence Ministry, and intended to evaluate the 150-kilotonne TN75 warhead that will be carried by France's five Triomphant-class submarines.


A seismograph records yesterday's explosion

The sea erupts off Mururoa after the first French test

Blast churns atoll lagoon into foam

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

A BRIGHT flash and a sea of *foaming water signalled to the* world France's second nuclear explosion of the present series, *at Fangataufa atoll in the* South Pacific yesterday, as the magnitude of the huge blast turned the lagoon white.

Television film of the test, taken by the French military authorities, was the only material broadcast around the Pacific region; a Greenpeace vessel, the *Manutea*, whose crew had been hoping to film the blast, was seized by French marines shortly before the test.

The 110-kilotonne explosion, set off by the turn of a key by French military officials in *bunkers hidden deep in* Fangataufa atoll, quickly spread out across the water in a huge ring as the sea began to bubble. Ken Muirhead, an official of the Australian Seismological Centre, said that the blast was was one of the *largest nuclear explosions* ever recorded.

The Australian Geological Survey Organisation, which registered the blast in Canberra 12 minutes after it occurred, said the explosion had registered at ten times the intensity of the shockwaves of the first blast, which took place on September 5. Greenpeace says that Fangataufa atoll was chosen for the second test because Mururoa atoll, the site of the first in the series, was too fragile to withstand the greater blast.

It is believed that the second test was carried out to check the reliability of the TN75 *warhead, which will equip* new French submarines next year. A spokesman for the French *military said*: "The goal of this test was to guarantee the safety and reliability of the weapons in the future."

Greenpeace activists occupying the roof of the French Ambassador's residence in London yesterday

Warhead linked to new submarines

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

FRANCE'S latest nuclear test *was part of the its strategic* deterrent modernisation programme which is currently under review.

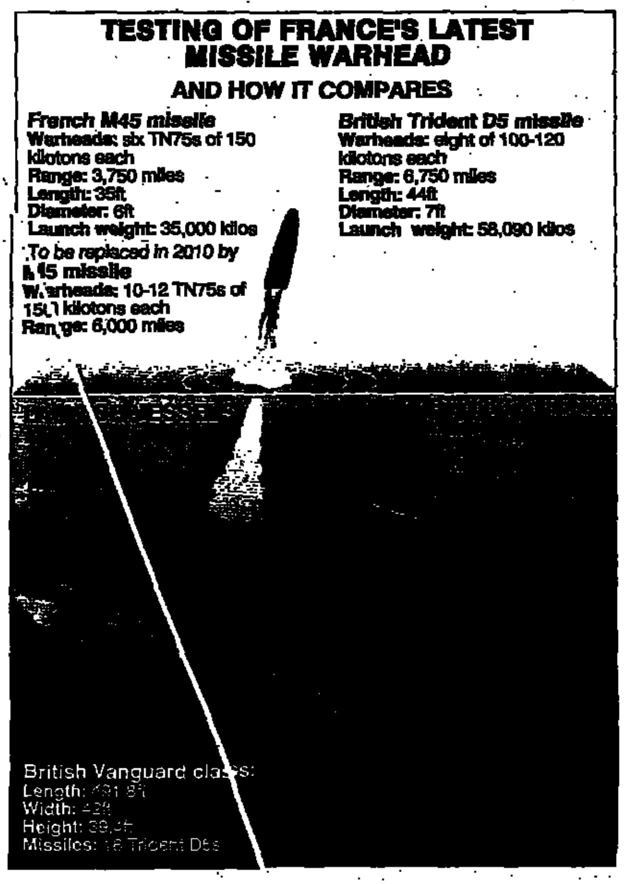
The French Navy's five Redoubtable-class submarines, each armed with 16 M4 missiles, are being replaced by a new Triomphant-class boat which will have the updated and longer-range M45 missile.

Under longer-term plans the French propose to replace the M45 missile with the M5 system which will have ten to 12 warheads and a range of 6,000 *miles*. Deployment of the even bigger missile system is planned for about 2010.

The latest nuclear test was aimed at certifying the performance characteristics of the TN75 warhead for the *M45* missile. Although 22 previous tests had been carried out during development, the French military said it needed *one final experiment*.

The future of France's strategic systems and the structure of French armed forces is currently the subject of a comprehensive review ordered by the Chirac Government. Unlike Britain and other Nato countries, France had postponed a defence review following the end of the Cold War. However, President Chirac ordered a full examination of security requirements and a report is expected early next year. The M45 and M5 systems are both included in the *review*.

The current proposal is to fit the M45 missile system *with its TN75 warhead to the* four Triomphant-class submarines and to refit them with the *M5 at a later date. The* number of Triomphant-class submarines has already been cut from six to four.


TESTING OF FRANCE'S LATEST MISSILE WARHEAD
AND HOW IT COMPARES
French M45 missile
Warheads: six TN75s of 150 kilotons each
Range: 3,750 miles
Length: 35ft
Diameter: 6ft
Launch weight: 35,000 kilos
To be replaced in 2010 by M5 missile
Warheads: 10-12 TN75s of 150 kilotons each
Range: 6,000 miles
British Trident D5 missile
Warheads: eight of 100-120 kilotons each
Range: 6,750 miles
Length: 44ft
Diameter: 7ft
Launch weight: 58,090 kilos
British Vanguard class:
Length:
Width:
Height:
Missiles: 16 Trident D5s

Explosion renews wave of protests

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

FRANCE'S explosion of a second nuclear bomb in the South Pacific yesterday sparked angry protests throughout the Pacific region.

Paul Keating, *Australia's* Prime Minister, immediately said: "The test ignores the understandable outrage in the international community at the first French test. France's good name in the region and around the world has been *further* damaged. Australia's efforts to press France to abandon its nuclear test programme will be unceasing and unrelenting."

In New Zealand, Jim *Bolger, the Prime Minister*, added: "There is a great sense of frustration that France seems determined *not to listen* to the voice of the Pacific, the voice of world leaders at home in Europe or anywhere else."

Top-level protests regretting the test also came from Japan, Russia and Norway. In Australia, New Zealand and Japan, French ambassadors were summoned to meetings to receive a formal protest.

The New Zealand Government is resisting strong pressure from opposition parties to sever diplomatic ties with France. The South Pacific Forum, a grouping of 15 independent nations, is likely to move to suspend France as a dialogue partner. New Zealand and Papua New Guinea yesterday reiterated their support for such action.

Anti-French *protesters* in Sydney and Canberra marched on French consulates *while Australian unions* declared a 24-hour strike on refuelling French aircraft. In Norway, many workers stopped work for five minutes at midday to protest against French and Chinese testing.

In Papeete, the Tahiti capital, the mood was tense with more than a thousand French police on stand-by to avert any repetition of the riots that followed the first test.

In London, 20 Greenpeace activists were being held by police last night after climbing on to the roof of the French *Ambassador's official* residence. The organisation condemned the explosion as "*totally outrageous*".

[redacted]

Kenyan spared gallows

Nakuru: Koigi wa Wamwere, Kenya's leading dissident, and two defendants were sentenced to four years' jail and six strokes of the cane after being found guilty of attempt*ing to steal weapons* from a police station. The charge of mounting an armed raid on a *police station, which carries a* mandatory death sentence, was dropped. *(Reuter)*

Dual control

Moroni: Comoros coup *leader* Captain Combo Ayouba, freed from jail by Colonel Bob Dénard, appointed two civilian Presidents as anger grew against the mercenaries. But most backed removal of President Djohar. *(Reuter)*

Storm havoc

Manila: President Ramos, while on a working visit to Kuala Lumpur, declared a Philippines state of calamity after 29 provinces and 27 cities were ravaged by tropical storm Sybil. More than 100 have died. *(Reuter)*

Nigerian TV shows excerpts from plot trial

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN LAGOS

Obasanjo: his conviction led to worldwide protests

THE Nigerian military Government was accused yesterday of playing games with the liberty of its citizens after state-controlled television showed excerpts of a secret coup plot trial hours after sentences on 40 alleged plotters were commuted.

The videotape of the trial, screened on Sunday night, *purported to show that there* were two plots, which later converged, against the Gov*ernment of* General *Sani* Abacha. The trial excerpts conveyed that General *Olusegum Obasanjo, the for*mer ruler, and his former deputy, Major-General Shehu Yar'Adua, met the alleged leaders and supported their plans. The conviction of General Obasanjo, widely respected in the West, at a secret military trial earlier this year provoked protests around the world and threats of sanctions against Nigeria.

In the face of mounting international pressure, General Abacha *on Sunday* commuted sentences on the accused, 14 of whom faced *execution, but did not specify* what the prison terms would be. He also gave details of a *three-year transition to civil*ian rule. In the film, the narrator portrayed retired Colonel Sambo Dasuki, an exiled fugitive, as the leader of the main plot in which General Abacha would be assassinated by a bomb at a Muslim praying ground or the presidency in Abuja, the capital, would be stormed. The other plot also involved exiled Nigerians and was allegedly hatched in neighbouring *Benin*.

One independent newspaper described the film as "a *revealing testimony*" *but* Gani Fawehinmi, one of the few leading opposition figures not *behind bars, said the film was* faked and televised to make General Abacha look magnanimous. Critics of the Abacha regime have accused it of dreaming up the coup plot last March to crack down on pro-democracy campaigners and divert pressure for the return to civilian rule.

A senior Western diplomat said that there was no evidence to convict General Obasanjo and warned General Abacha *that he was* "*playing with fire*".

"He is clearly trying to tease *out of us further approval for* the transition process. This is playing games with people's *liberty," the diplomat said.*

Leading article, page 17

Cambodia delays British doctor's rape hearing

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN PHNOM PENH

THE trial of a British doctor charged with raping five Cambodian boys has been postponed after the escape of a former Buddhist monk alleged to have procured minors for the doctor, court officials said yesterday.

The former monk, Sontantak Vitak, was arrested on Friday and charged with rape and conspiracy to commit rape but escaped on Saturday as he was being brought to court, said Nob Sophon, deputy chief of Phnom Penh Municipal Court.

Depending on the decision of a judge, the monk was to have been either a witness or a co-defendant in the trial of Gavin Scott, who was arrested in June on suspicion of paedophilia after five teenage boys complained to the police that Dr Scott had assaulted them. The trial was to have begun today.

Court sources quoted by the *Cambodia Daily* newspaper said that the monk may also be charged with pimping. He may also face charges of kidnapping.

Dr Scott's lawyer, Samuel Oum, confirmed that the case had been postponed *indefinitely. Dr Scott*, who had operated a private practice in the capital for several years, has been held in Phnom Penh's notorious colonial-era prison and has been refused bail. The rape charge carries a three to five-year prison term on conviction.

The five teenagers complained to police with the help of the Cambodian branch of End Child Prostitution in Asian Tourism. The group has come under fire from a growing number of foreigners, who have sent letters to the editor of local newspapers, contending that the private group has conducted the entire investigation and has interfered with Dr Scott's *ability* to prepare a defence by opposing his release on bail. The group has declined to comment.

Army kills 51 Tigers in Jaffna offensive

FROM REUTER IN COLOMBO

ABOUT 51 Tamil Tiger guerrillas were killed in a Sri Lankan Army offensive that led to the capture of a number of towns in the rebel stronghold of Jaffna, a military communiqué said yesterday. The army lost 19 men.

The offensive, codenamed Thunder Strike, involved three army brigades backed *by tanks* and artillery. The soldiers, advancing from Palaly air base on the northern tip *of Jaffna at dawn on Sunday*, overran guerrilla positions to the south, it said. "By afternoon troops captured an area of eight square miles, including Achchuveli, Thoppu, Navakkeri, Vasavilan, Puthur, Pathameni, Avarankal, Iddaikadu and Vallai."

The troops faced initial resistance from the guerrillas of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam. "Subsequently the terrorists started withdrawing further to the south," the communiqué said. "The operation is in progress."

Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe had denied on Sunday that the troop movement signalled the start of the planned major offensive against the Tigers which has been expected before monsoon rains start in the middle of the month.

The rebel Tiger Radio reported heavy fighting in Jaffna on Sunday. It said tanks and armoured vehicles were moving towards rebel-held areas, and *that shells had* been hitting the Achchuveli area since Sunday morning. At *least five civilians* were *killed*, it said. There had also been heavy fighting at the key *Elephant Pass*, which links the government-controlled southern mainland with the northern *Jaffna peninsula*.

The Government has said it wants to crush the Tigers after they unilaterally broke a truce in April and resumed hostilities, refusing to study a government peace plan offering extensive autonomy to Tamils.

Anuruddha Ratwatte, the Deputy Defence Minister, was quoted yesterday as saying Colombo would not slow down or abandon the war but it would be fought to a finish within two or three months. Once the 12-year-old war was over, a political solution to the ethnic problem was necessary for lasting peace, he added.

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Clinton pleads for calm between races over Simpson trial

FROM IAN BRODIE AND GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

WITH reactions to the O. J. Simpson acquittal continuing to harden along racial lines yesterday, President Clinton urged Americans not to let the case become the start of a new split between the races.

However, at the same time racial differences were exacerbated by remarks attributed to Marcia Clark, the lead prosecutor, that a black majority jury would never convict in cases like the Simpson double murder trial. Americans continue to be consumed by the case. Radio and television chat shows are still filled with arguments over the trial and the topic continues to dominate conversations.

Mr Clinton said it would be a "great mistake" for Americans to use these aftershocks as the "beginning of some new division in our country". In an interview with *USA Today*, he lamented the "polarisation of perception" in reactions to the verdict, with blacks siding with the jurors and whites saying that Mr Simpson got away with murder.

Fred Goldman, whose son Ronald was murdered with Nicole Brown Simpson, Mr Simpson's former wife, said that he deplored the "huge wedge" that had been shoved between the races. Kathleen Bell, the estate agent whose tapes exposed former policeman Mark Fuhrman as a racist, said the cheers and applause for the verdict by a black church congregation made her wish she had never become involved.

Ms Clark, who never objected during the trial to having nine blacks on the jury, was quoted as telling a CNN reporter off-camera: "Liberals don't want to admit it, but a majority black jury won't convict in a case like this. They won't bring justice." The district attorney's office protested that Ms Clark was misquoted, but CNN stood by its account, saying their reporter's impression was that she wanted her view made public.

Ms Clark has joined the bandwagon of those seeking to turn a profit from the trial. She signed with the William Morris Agency, a large Hollywood firm, to handle the blizzard of literary, film and television proposals she has received. Her first project is likely to be a book.

Mr Simpson's prospects for cashing in have taken a sharply downward turn. America's two biggest pay-per-view distributors will not carry an interview with him, citing worries about bad taste and doubts about the viability of the much discussed special.

DEFENCE ON THE ATTACK

> **❛ Shapiro was ... negotiating to try to get a plea of guilty... He was a sick little puppy ❜**
>
> *— F. Lee Bailey*
>
> ❛ I had a very close relationship with him ... I will not talk to F. Lee Bailey again ❜
>
> *— Robert Shapiro*
>
> **❛ I think Shapiro has flipped out. It is very sad. We all feel very sorry for him ❜**
>
> *— F. Lee Bailey*
>
> ❛ Bailey gave me the opportunity of my career when he was in trouble on a drunk driving charge ❜
>
> *— Robert Shapiro*

Yesterday the bitter public feud between Mr Simpson's lawyers intensified, with F. Lee Bailey repeating his accusations that his colleague, Robert Shapiro, discussed a plea bargain. Robert Kardashian, Mr Simpson's close friend and business partner, told yesterday's *Los Angeles Times* that Mr Shapiro once discussed the idea in a defence lawyers' meeting.

In an interview in next week's *People* magazine, Mr Shapiro, who has denied the plea-bargain allegations, says he was appalled by what he considered Johnnie Cochran's condescending tone in the closing arguments, and thought the jury was "gonna give it to the defence up the wazoo" as a result.

The California Bar Association, which has been bombarded with complaints about lawyers' conduct during the trial, is launching an inquiry that could lead to cautions, even disbarment. Sources said the investigation would involve defence lawyers.

Support for Mr Simpson among blacks is not unreserved. Black leaders in Los Angeles urged him to get involved in their impoverished communities as he never did before his arrest. They called on him to show his gratitude to less fortunate blacks who had encouraged him.

Mr Simpson has expressed a wish to pay his first visit to his former wife's grave in Orange County, south of Los Angeles. Defence sources said Mr Simpson was also preparing to go away for a week or two. He was also said to be mulling over an eventual move to New York, where he owns a flat, or Florida.

Pope says abortion is blight on America

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE moment of controversy that Pope-watchers had been waiting for finally came at a rain-soaked Mass in a New Jersey stadium.

Speaking to the largest crowd yet on his American trip, the pontiff told 83,000 worshippers on Thursday night that legalised abortion was a "moral blight" on the country.

"American Catholics must be committed to the defence of life in all its stages and in every condition," he declared to thunderous applause.

There are about 60 million Catholics in the America, but many are "cafeteria Catholics" who pick and choose from Church doctrine. An opinion poll this week found that 69 per cent of them believe that a woman who has an abortion can still be a good Catholic. A group called "Catholics for Free Choice" is even holding protests during the Pope's visit.

The difference between the Vatican and its American flock was obvious in the behaviour of the crowd who welcomed the pontiff with a "Mexican wave" and chants of "P-O-P-E" and "Let's go, Pope!" During his sermon, the Pope compared the fight against abortion to the struggles in American history against religious bigotry and racial prejudice.

"Sadly, today a new class of people is being excluded," he said. "When the unborn child — the stranger in the womb — is declared to be beyond the protection of society, not only are America's deepest traditions radically undermined and endangered, but a moral blight is brought upon society."

The Pope also criticised plans to cut welfare payments and to crack down on immigrants. "Is present-day America becoming less sensitive, less caring toward the poor, the weak, the stranger, the needy? It must not!" he said.

President tells of pain at mother's death

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

LAST Mother's Day, President Clinton was so overwhelmed by the pain of his mother's recent death that he took to his bed in the middle of the afternoon. "It was awful," he recalled. "I came home that afternoon, got into bed, propped myself up and re-read her book. I couldn't deal with it in any other way."

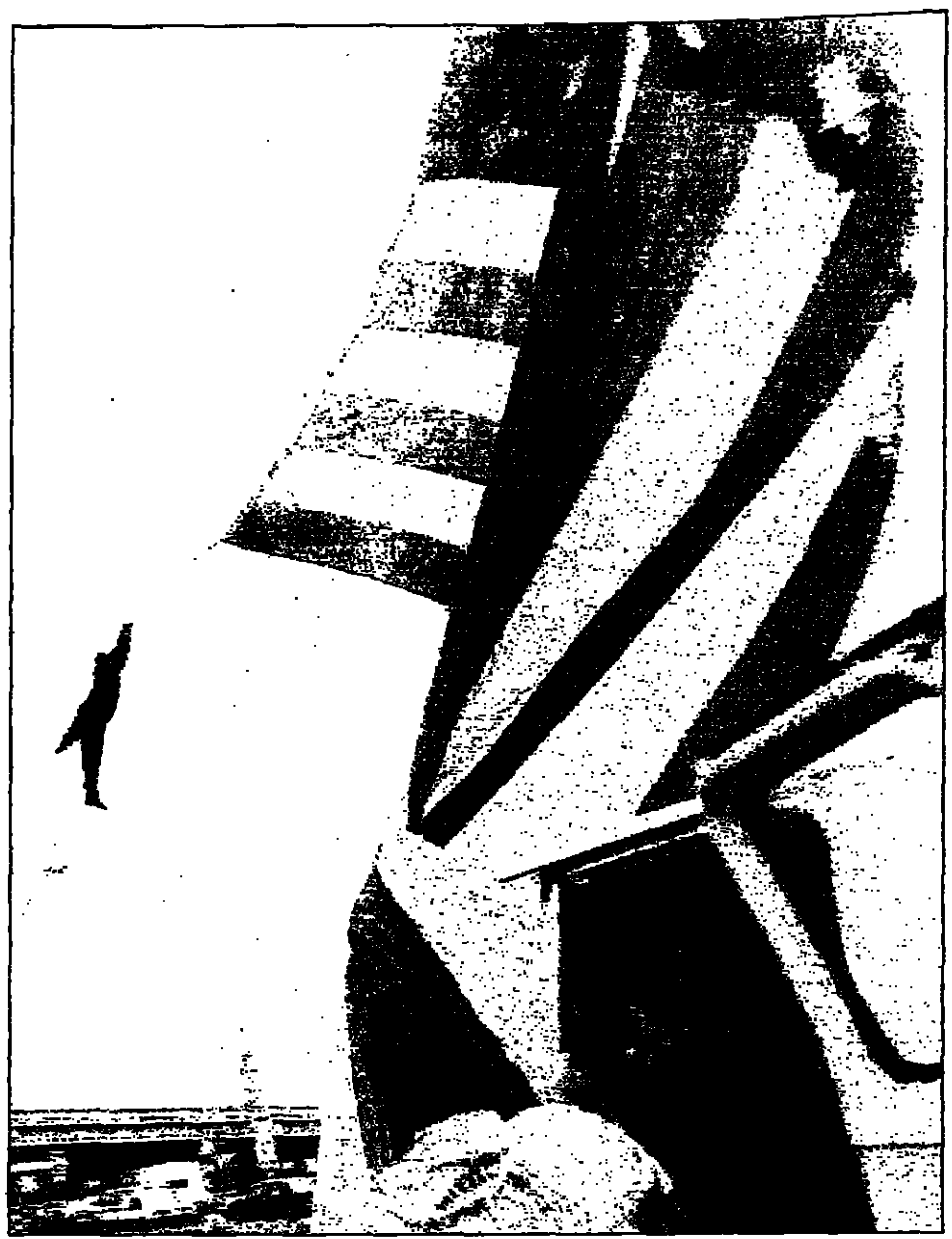
Virginia Kelley died of cancer in January 1994 on the eve of Mr Clinton's first official trip to Europe and Russia. Now the President has spoken for the first time about that experience in an interview with *Good Housekeeping* magazine.

Although his mother had sought to conceal her illness, he knew when elected that she might not survive his first term, Mr Clinton said. He was, however, still surprised when she died.

The evening of her death she had returned from Las Vegas. "I knew she was getting back that night but I thought I'd let her rest and call the next morning," Mr Clinton recalled. "But she called me. Chelsea, Hillary and I were at the dinner table and we had a four-way yap-yap. Just 'Hi, how are you?' kind of stuff. She said what a great time she had in Vegas and that everything was fine."

At 2.30am, Mr Clinton's stepfather called to say his mother had died in her sleep. The President delayed his departure, but within hours of her funeral was heading across the Atlantic on Air Force One. "Right away I had to go to Russia and it was very tough. Boris Yeltsin and I have a good relationship, and one of the reasons is that we both loved our mothers. He lost his mother after he became the President of Russia. So he understood what I was going through. From then on I was on automatic pilot."

Sitting in the Oval Office 18 months later, Mr Clinton said: "My feelings of missing her are still incredibly intense. I just wish she were still around." Nodding towards a bank of photographs behind his desk, he said: "I have pictures everywhere, memories everywhere. I have all the same regrets I guess anybody would have ... but the biggest thing is just wishing we could be together and talk."



Lloyd Dupuy, a sheriff's deputy, flew through the air as a gust of wind caught the giant American flag at Metairie, Louisiana, which he and other deputies were tring to lower on Wednesday as Hurricane Opal neared. He is in intensive care

White House eases curbs on Cuba cash and travel

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON, in a change of policy towards Cuba yesterday, relaxed restrictions on travel and aid to the island in a further attempt to undermine Fidel Castro's regime by spreading democratic ideas.

To placate his critics, Mr Clinton simultaneously announced tougher enforcement of America's 33-year-old trade embargo against Cuba, but made plain that his principal goal was to expose Cubans to outside influences and encourage a "peaceful transition to a free and open society".

The President said America would permit academic, cultural and religious exchanges with Cuba and let American charitable and human rights organisations expand their work on the island.

American news organisations, ejected from Cuba in the 1960s, will be allowed to open offices in Havana and Cuban news organisations to do the same in America. Cuban-Americans will be able to visit seriously ill relatives in their homeland with minimum delay, and Western Union will be allowed to open offices in Cuba so that Cuban-Americans can more easily send money to relatives in emergencies.

Many of these measures require Cuba's co-operation. There was no immediate reaction from Havana, but President Castro has made clear in the past that he would consider such measures an attempt to subvert socialism.

On Capitol Hill, where the Republican majorities are working on legislation to strengthen sanctions against Cuba, the initial reaction was hostile. Phil Gramm, the Republican senator and presidential candidate, accused Mr Clinton of "putting out the welcome mat to Castro instead of tightening the noose around his neck".

Hardline Cuban-American groups in Florida were also angry. Mr Clinton and his advisers were "pacifists and they are seeking an understanding with Fidel, but he cedes only those things that do not damage him and this will not damage him," said a spokesman for Alpha 66, a group that has long sought Señor Castro's overthrow.

White House officials said the President's actions were in line with the 1992 Cuban Democracy Act. "Everything we are doing is with the intent of trying to undermine dictatorship by importing information and ideas into Cuba," one source said. "And if Castro ever wants to see the trade embargo lifted, he is going to have to comply with all of this."

Florida figures highly in Mr Clinton's plans to win re-election next year, and yesterday's announcement ran counter to the conventional wisdom that presidential hopefuls must do the bidding of the Cuban-American exile groups. White House officials believe there is in fact a silent and more moderate majority in Florida that will welcome his efforts to bring the long stand-off with Cuba to an end.

Cold adds to hostage sufferings

Jammu, India: The health of four Westerners held hostage by separatist guerrillas in Kashmir is worsening as cold weather sets in and psychological pressure mounts, Indian officials said yesterday.

"The health of the hostages is deteriorating in extremely cold, unhygienic conditions, restricted diet and psychological pressure," a police officer said in Jammu.

Donald Hutchings, an American, Dirk Hasert, a German, and Keith Mangan and Paul Wells, both British, began their fourth month in captivity in the Himalayan region, where they were abducted while trekking.

Authorities in Srinagar said they had not renewed contact with the kidnappers, Al Faran guerrillas, who broke off talks last month. *(Reuter)*

Third delay for space shuttle

Cape Canaveral, Florida: For the third time in about a week, Nasa delayed the launch of the space shuttle *Columbia* for a 16-day mission, this time because of a problem with the hydraulics that operate the nose wheel and landing gear. Officials will try again today or tomorrow. The countdown was halted six hours before lift-off. A fuel leak and Hurricane Opal caused the earlier delays. *(AP)*

Hong Kong acts to beat sharks

Hong Kong: Seven more shark barrier nets are to be set up at a cost of £3 million in Sai Kung peninsula, where sharks have killed two men and a woman swimmer this year. Shark warning flags were again hoisted at the Sai Kung beaches, which were closed for two months early in the summer after the sighting of a 10ft shark. *(AFP)*

Nine stuntmen killed in crash

San Fernando, Philippines: Nine Filipino stuntmen on their way to carry out action sequences for a film were killed when their vehicle crashed into a bus while overtaking a lorry. Eleven bus passengers were injured in the collision at Tarlac, 69 miles north of Manila. *(Reuter)*

Fashion grab

Rome: Raiders drove a stolen car through the window of the Fendi fashion family's main store in Rome's chic Via Borgognona and fled with expensive fur coats and other luxury goods. *(Reuter)*

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BARCLAYS

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Bosnians mass for final push before the guns fall silent

FROM ANTHONY LOYD IN BIHAC

THE talk may be of peace, but in western Bosnia yesterday the rumours were of war as thousands of fresh government troops were pressed into the mountainous front lines as part of a redeployment that seems set to turn the days in the run-up to Tuesday's "ceasefire" into a frenzy of military activity.

"It is dangerous to talk of peace," one commander said. "We have had three and a half years of fighting and dying; we cannot allow our soldiers to be threatened by false hopes now, especially as we are winning."

As he spoke, reinforcements from central Bosnia, including soldiers from Mostar, Sarajevo and Travnik, moved forward to positions held by the Bosnian 5th Corps of Bihac, whose troops have been worn out by the remarkable scale of their infantry advances over the past month. The new arrivals were preceded two days ago by General Rasim Delic, the overall military commander, and elements of the army's general staff from Sarajevo, the Bosnian capital.

Elsewhere, Bosnian refugees expelled by the Serbs from the northern town of Banja Luka, who were subsequently given accommodation in Kljuc, were again uprooted and evacuated at short notice to Bosanski Petrovac. Their removal was an indication of the predicted upsurge in fighting before the American-negotiated ceasefire takes effect.

For some, however, such as the fat *gastarbeiter* in cowboy boots, the chance of peace would not come a moment too soon. He had arrived at the front line on Sunday in a black BMW 735, carrying money and uniforms which were donated by fellow Bosnians of Bihac who had chosen to sit out the war in Germany to conduct profitable businesses. His battlefield debut may have been a brave gesture, but he left to volleys of bullets, crawling on his belly and with only his boots intact.

I saw him upon his arrival near the line, where both his vehicle and paunch cut an incongruous sight among the lean, war-weary government troops. The brigade commander, a friend of his from before the war, suggested that rather than simply hand over the donations and leave, he should distribute them personally among the fighters as a gesture of solidarity from the Bosnian businessmen abroad.

Howitzers suddenly fired shells from nearby causing the *gastarbeiter* to twitch nervously. "I've never been to war before," he said, grinning uneasily. "Incoming or outgoing, it all sounds the same to me."

Despite his good intentions, some of the troops were unimpressed. "Oh how nice of you to come," said one with deep sarcasm. "You've brought some money and clothes have you? How kind. We've been fighting hard for all this time while you have been getting fatter. Have a good war tour."

He did not have a good war tour. He drove to a forward headquarters, which came under heavy Serb attack and fell to the enemy. As soldiers died beside him, he made his exit, abandoning the BMW and with it his passport, uniforms and money.

Much later, back in Bihac, he voiced his feelings unequivocally. "That was my first day in a war, and I hope to God, my last. I'm going back to Germany to raise more funds for the brigade. I've never been so terrified, and God knows that if one of those *gastarbeiter* says to me, 'Oh, not more money for those bloody soldiers', I'll kill him."

☐ **Banja Luka:** Milan Martic, the "president" of rebel Serbs in the former Krajina enclave in Croatia, narrowly escaped assassination when his car exploded minutes after he left it parked in front of his house, Serb sources said yesterday. Mr Martic was the "president" of the Krajina enclave in Croatia until August when the Croatian Army stormed the area and forced thousands of Serb civilians to flee, including their leaders. Since then, he has taken shelter in this northern town. *(Reuter)*

UN checks supply line to Gorazde in test for ceasefire

BY MICHAEL EVANS

URGENT steps were being taken yesterday to ensure that the conditions for a ceasefire due to begin in Bosnia-Herzegovina would be met by the deadline of midnight on Tuesday.

The Bosnian Government has insisted that electricity and gas supplies should be returned to Sarajevo and that a supply route be opened to Gorazde in eastern Bosnia.

Yesterday a reconnaissance party from the United Nations Protection Force travelled down the road to Gorazde to check on the state of the route and the mood of the Bosnian Serbs who control the checkpoints to the Muslim enclave.

Unprofor sources said that, as part of the conditions for a ceasefire, they would have to show that they could escort aid convoys into Gorazde without any interruption by the Serbs.

The sense of urgency was underlined by Richard Holbrooke, the American peace envoy who mediated the ceasefire. He called for the rapid implementation of the conditions needed for a ceasefire. "My only concern is that the UN implements the agreements and makes them effective, so the ceasefire can proceed."

Mr Holbrooke was in Rome for an international meeting to discuss a reconstruction programme for Bosnia once a peace settlement has been reached. It has been estimated that it could cost £2.5 billion to rebuild all the damaged houses, bridges and other buildings. Japan is expected to contribute towards the costs.

Mr Holbrooke said: "We have to get the Gorazde road open. We have to get the gas and electricity in Sarajevo turned on right away, and we have to get the ceasefire going right away."

Mr Holbrooke issued a warning that the deal announced on Thursday did not mean imminent peace in Bosnia. He said it took five years to end the Vietnam War from the start of peace talks in Paris in 1968. "Let no one think that the peace is imminent or round the corner, or that the peace talks will produce immediate results," he said.

Last night optimism grew that the electricity and gas supplies would be back by Tuesday. One difficulty is that hundreds of households in Sarajevo have illegally fitted gas pipes which could cause explosions once the gas is turned back on. This has happened in the past, leading to many deaths. The Serbs besieging the city have turned utilities on and off throughout the war.

William Eagleton, UN special co-ordinator for Sarajevo, said: "The problems are more technical than political."

Children in a Sarajevo suburb make the V-sign after the ceasefire announcement

Clinton sings his own praises

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT CLINTON yesterday seized on the Bosnian ceasefire agreement to trumpet rare foreign policy accomplishments, blast congressional isolationism, and insist that the United States must send troops to the Balkans to police a permanent peace accord if one is forthcoming.

Republican leaders are profoundly suspicious of Administration plans to deploy up to 25,000 troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and are planning hearings on the issue. Mr Clinton said, in what the White House billed as a key foreign policy speech, that "after all the bloodshed, the hatred, the losses of the last years, peace will surely be fragile ... If we fail, the consequences for Bosnia and for the future of Nato would be severe."

Foreign policy has long been Mr Clinton's weakest suit, but he is enjoying a string of successes and yesterday, with one eye firmly on next year's presidential election, he sought to capitalise on them.

Foreign policy is rarely decisive in elections, but the White House knows it can enhance the incumbent's stature.

Fresh corruption inquiry clouds Juppé's future

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

A NEW inquiry into corruption allegations against Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, and an opinion poll showing his rapidly dwindling popularity, rattled the Paris stock market yesterday and raised further doubts about his political future.

The Prime Minister's office strongly denied rumours that he was about to resign in the wake of accusations that he had used his influence while Deputy Mayor of Paris to obtain a flat belonging to the city at reduced rates for himself and his son.

On Thursday, the same day that opinion polls showed M Juppé's approval ratings had fallen to a new low, a state prosecutor announced the opening of a preliminary inquiry into whether the Prime Minister could be prosecuted. In 1990, M Juppé leased a large flat in the chic Saint Germain des Prés district for Fr11,000 (£1,410) a month, which is far below the market rate. A Paris taxpayers' association has also alleged that M Juppé ordered renovations to the flat costing more than Fr1 million, at the city's expense.

The crux of the matter is whether M Juppé, who was in charge of city finances, also had authority over the allocation of city housing. The Prime Minister, describing the charges as a "petty political plot", has claimed that his rent was "reasonable", while the Justice Ministry has said that as Deputy Mayor he had no control over housing.

Last week, however, the Association for the Defence of Paris Taxpayers submitted documents purporting to show that M Juppé had authority to sign documents on behalf of the Mayor, then Jacques Chirac, and thus had "the full freedom to act on matters concerning rents".

Christian Lançon, a former city housing official, has stated that he arranged the renovation of the flat on M Juppé's explicit instructions.

The latest charges come hard on the heels of allegations that in February 1993, M Juppé ordered the authorities to lower the rent on another city flat leased by his son. The Paris prosecutor declined to take that case further since M Juppé had not profited directly from the decrease in rent, but an anti-corruption panel ruled that he could be liable for prosecution. The Prime Minister could be forced to resign if a full-scale formal investigation is launched after the preliminary inquiry.

The housing scandal is only one factor in M Juppé's precipitous fall from favour. Unpopular tax rises and concessions to special interest groups in the Prime Minister's 1996 budget, frustration at the slow pace of economic reform, fears that France will be unable to meet the conditions for a single European currency and the continuation of nuclear testing in the South Pacific have all tarnished the regime. Next Tuesday, M Juppé's problems will worsen when five million public-sector workers go on strike in protest over his planned wage freeze.

Juppé: sharp fall from favour among voters

Four months ago, the Prime Minister, who was then a successful Foreign Minister in Edouard Balladur's administration, was enjoying a 60 per cent approval rating, but a survey for *Le Figaro* published today shows that barely 39 per cent of respondents have retained their confidence in him.

M Juppé is now the most unpopular Prime Minister of recent times with the exception of Edith Cresson, who survived just ten months before she was unceremoniously removed. President Chirac has fared little better: voter confidence in him dropped from 54 per cent last month to 41 per cent today.

Political observers predict that M Chirac may seek to cut his losses by sacking M Juppé.

EUROPEAN SUMMARY

Eight hurt in Metro bombing

Paris: A bomb exploded in front of a Paris Metro station yesterday, slightly injuring eight people and shattering any illusion that the terrorist campaign which began here in July has abated (Ben Macintyre writes).

The blast occurred hours after the funeral of Khaled Kelkal, the suspected Algerian Muslim terrorist, who was killed by French paratroops near Lyons a week ago. The bomb, like all but one of six earlier ones, was made from a gas canister.

Chechens bomb Russian general

Moscow: General Anatoli Romanov, 47, Russia's military commander in Chechenia, was badly injured when a large bomb exploded beside his vehicle in a Grozny underpass (Richard Beeston writes). Nine soldiers were also hurt and at least two were killed. The attack seems bound to undermine further the discredited peace deal.

Graf quizzed over her taxes

Bonn: Steffi Graf has been interrogated for a full day about her tax affairs (Roger Boyes writes). Her father, Peter, has been in remand prison since August and her accountant was arrested last month. Detectives are now searching through Dutch and German bank accounts.

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Watchful media keep an eye on Union's Nordic squad of bustling high-flyers

Ice queen blazes vivid trail for Mother Earth

BRUSSELS FILE

by CHARLES BREMNER

PRESIDENT Chirac of France has shrugged off the wrath of the Antipodes and the anti-nuclear brigade, but he he may find it harder to dismiss the anger of one determined woman in Brussels. Ritt Bjerregaard, Denmark's formidable Commissioner for the Environment, is on the warpath after France refused to give her inspectors full access to the Mururoa test site. Two decades of controversy in her homeland have shown that Ms Bjerregaard ends up getting her way. Dogged and uncompromising or arrogant and high-handed, depending on your view, Ms Bjerregard has left nobody indifferent as she has blazed a vivid trail in her nine months in Brussels. Known at home as the *isdronning*, or ice queen, the abrasive former minister and feminist has repeatedly fallen foul of the collegial President, Jacques Santer, as she has crashed around the muffled corridors of Euro-power with conduct deemed somewhat less than discreet. A woman who mixes stylish dress with the severe coiffure of the teacher she once was, Ms Bjerregard, 54, got off to a bumpy start by showing insufficient regard for the European Parliament, which branded her incompetent. Unrepentant, she compounded the offence by noting that the Strasbourg body is "not a real parliament".

She has delighted in provocation, upsetting lobbies and governments by posing as the people's champion. She preaches "we must now speak up on Mother Earth's behalf" and champions her doctrine of "the polluter pays". An organic apple-grower in her spare time, she denounces farmers as among Europe's biggest polluters and has overridden Mr Santer's and Britain's wishes to win approval of a ban on the export of hazardous waste to developing countries. The watchful Danish media are, however, more irked by her famous attachment to the material side of life, a trait especially deplored in frugal Scandinavia. In 1978 she lost her job as Education Minister in the Social Democratic government after charging for a suite at the Paris Ritz hotel. She was later cleared but ran into more trouble over her taxes. In Brussels she was forced, after resistance, to abandon the ministerial pension that she continued to claim on top of her hefty Commissioner's package. Last month the Danes were after her again over a shipment of wine and several thousand pounds in payments for articles published in her name. She has returned the wine, a gift from an agricultural college, but insists she has a right to the newspaper income although Commissioners are sworn not to "engage in any other occupation, whether gainful or not". Ms Bjerregaard, who is married to Soren Morch, a history professor, enjoys admiration for her iron-willed ways and also what many see as a Thatcher-like use of her femininity in a man's world. "Behind the ice, she can be a real charmer," says a colleague. John Iverson, her spokesman, says her strong character attracts enemies. "The fact that she is clever and she is good-looking provokes a lot of people," he says.

A battle is set for Wednesday when the Commission is due to take a long-postponed decision on the French nuclear tests. Unwilling to upset France, Britain and Germany, Mr Santer is keen to avoid the entanglement that will ensue if the Commission decides that it has authority to interfere. Backed by a strong minority, Ms Bjerregaard is pressing for a tough line, including the possibility of legal proceedings against France for flouting the Atomic Energy Treaty terms on safety.

BENOIT DOPPAGNE

Ritt Bjerregaard speaks her mind on the environment

Euro-land's tabloid voice

BRITAIN may be the most half-hearted of European Union members, but if information is power, it can be said to wield a lot of clout. For a start, Britain fields more journalists in Brussels than any other state. Now a British outfit has launched the first newspaper devoted entirely to Euro-land. The weekly European Voice, *published by The Economist group, is aimed at the tens of thousands of Eurocrats, politicians and businessmen who inhabit or depend on the EU institutions. The paper is a tabloid, but do not expect any headlines of the "Up Yours, Delors" variety. The top story in the first edition, out yesterday, bore the headline: "Realities behind votes in Council".*

Finn gears up for role as watchdog

WHILE Ritt Bjerregaard is known for her attachment to her chauffeured car, the Nordic cycling tradition is being upheld by the region's newest arrival. The European Union's first ombudsman, Jacob Soderman of Finland, can be seen pedalling around Strasbourg, where he was sworn in last week.

Appointed after two years of parliamentary squabbling, Mr Soderman, 57, will field complaints from citizens who believe they have been mistreated by Europe's bureaucrats. He comes well qualified for the post of watchdog after stints as Finland's ombudsman, a minister, governor of the Helsinki region and many years on a third division football team.

He says he has waded through about 200 complaints, a surprising figure given that his service has not been advertised. Most of the gripes come from citizens complaining about their national authorities and are thus beyond his remit. Many are from Britons upset over the NHS. A third of the admissible complaints come from staff of EU institutions, with the rest made up of victims of alleged delay, bungling and obfuscation by Eurocrats. *Monsieur le médiateur européen*, whose post comes with a £200,000 salary, is not worried about his lack of enforcement power. The worst that can happen to a miscreant institution is to be hauled before the European Parliament. "I have never met a civil servant in any part of the world who likes to go before a parliamentary committee," he says.

His address is: Palais de l'Europe, PO Box 1024, Strasbourg.

French diplomat attacks teachers

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

DOMINIQUE GIRARD, the French Ambassador to Australia, yesterday accused Australian schools of brainwashing children into hating the French.

Speaking at a lunch in Sydney, he claimed that some teachers were "criticising France in a systematic and abusive way and giving the children the impression that France was just a criminal country run by a criminal President and inhabited by criminal people".

He said that his embassy had received letters from concerned parents, adding: "I think that brainwashing children against another country is in itself an aggression to the children. It is also a serious breach of the principles of tolerance on which Australia is living."

M Girard said that the French Consul-General had written to the Minister of Education of New South Wales outlining his concerns but had not yet received a response.

He said: "We have a huge feeling of sympathy for Australia for what it represents, for the idea of liberty, for the idea of a country which is created by people who volunteer to come to it, who enjoy the novelty of a world where you can really work on the principles of tolerance, of friendship, of mutual respect."

Protesters dressed in white radiation suits awaited the Ambassador's arrival at the lunch, chanting anti-nuclear slogans and calling for the two Greenpeace vessels seized by the French military outside Mururoa atoll to be released. The protesters have been camped outside the French Consulate in Sydney for a month.

M Girard insisted that France would not bow to international pressure over nuclear testing in the Pacific. "It is rather useless and rather futile to pretend that France is yielding to pressure or that it is suffering as a result of its policy," he said. "We will go ahead with our policy which is harming nobody and the logic of which can be perceived, if not appreciated, by anyone of reasonably good faith."

Film boosts calls for new look at Italian director's murder

Pasolini: films outraged *Italian establishment*

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

TWENTY years after Pier Paolo Pasolini was battered to death in a Rome suburb, public pressure is growing for a new inquiry to be opened into the death of the film director, actor and poet.

Interest in the affair has been revived with the presentation at the Venice Film Festival last month of *Pasolini, Un Delitto Italiano* (Pasolini, An Italian Crime), directed by Marco Tullio Giordana. It challenges a 1977 appeal court ruling that the convicted killer, Pino Pelosi, a young male prostitute, had acted alone in the murder on wasteland in Ostia on November 1, 1975.

Italo Ormanni, a Rome magistrate, is studying a request by Nino Marazitta, the Pasolini family's lawyer, for a fresh investigation. Signor Marazzita says he has new evidence by a police officer who took part in the murder investigation. "He is a flying squad sergeant who was involved in the case and immediately afterwards was 'promoted' to other duties because he was over-zealous in following a track that was not appreciated," Signor Marazzita said.

"Now he has retired and has agreed to break silence and name those who in the prosecutor's office gave the order to let matters drop, guaranteeing ... the theory that Pelosi was the only one responsible."

Pasolini irritated the establishment with his films, such as *Mamma Roma*, about the life in tough Roman suburbs run by crime gangs. His bawdy versions of *The Canterbury Tales* and *The Decameron* upset the Roman Catholic Church. He also lashed out at the corrupt politicians of the dominant Christian Democrat Party in articles he wrote for the *Corriere della Sera*. Left-wing intellectuals were quick to suggest that there was a conspiracy orchestrated by extreme-right elements in Italy's secret services to eliminate the homosexual Marxist writer.

Signor Giordana said: "The objective facts ... indicate that Pelosi was not alone that night. He could not have overpowered the writer, who was an athletic and vigorous man. At the time of his arrest, Pelosi spoke of a violent fight with Pasolini who demanded special sexual services from him, but he [Pelosi] had no bloodstains or signs of struggle."

Pelosi said he was picked up by the director in his car outside Rome's railway station and that, after a meal at a restaurant, Pasolini drove him to wasteland at Ostia. He said that a struggle began when he refused to perform sado-masochistic acts and that he beat Pasolini repeatedly with a wooden sign and kicked him repeatedly in the testicles. Then he drove away in the car, running over his victim's body as he sped off. A short time later he stopped at a fountain to wash away the blood of the director and then was spotted by police and arrested.

Signor Giordana believes that Pelosi said he acted alone to obtain a lighter sentence.

Earlier this year Renzo Sansone, a former Carabinieri policeman, said he had proof that Pelosi's accomplices were two brothers and a man suspected of having owned a bloodstained ring found at the murder scene that experts said was too large for Pelosi. The brothers were arrested but later released.

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■ OPINION

Moving into the last act? Can Richard Armstrong and Scottish Opera survive crisis?

■ MUSICALS

A new boss for the pickpockets: Jim Dale signs on as Fagin in *Oliver!* at the Palladium

THE TIMES ARTS

■ MUSIC

Britain enjoys a feast of Tchaikovsky from the St Petersburg Philharmonic

■ ON MONDAY

Fighting his corner for culture: Lord Gowrie defends the role of the Arts Council

Is Scotland willing to pay for opera?

Dismal news from Glasgow is the last thing you need on a Saturday morning. But when a great national arts institution topples towards disaster, silence is not golden but gutless. Those in search of jollier fare should pass straight down to our theatre critic's excellent appraisal of Mr Jim Dale's metamorphosis into Fagin. The rest of you, pour yourself another fortifying cuppa of something strong, dark and scalding, and read on.

Scottish Opera, which has staggered punch-drunk from one financial crisis to another for much of its 33-year history, finally threw in the towel yesterday. Unless some miracle softens the stony heart of the Scottish Secretary (and let's not discount that; the Tories badly need to contrive a few miracles north of the border) Scottish Opera will go part-time.

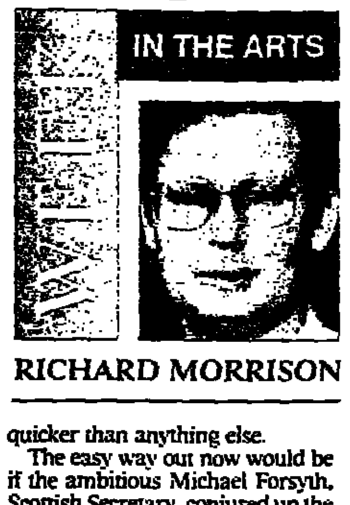
Its staff will be put on "flexible" contracts; its operation will be reduced to nine months a year. In short, it will cease to be a major opera company. As Sandy Orr, its chairman, said about the plan yesterday: "The board has put it forward with the greatest misgivings. It would lead to a major downgrading of the company, with the loss to Scotland of talented people."

True, the company has had dodgy managements in the past, and made some bizarre decisions. I remember, back in the early 1980s, sitting in the Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, as part of an audience of about three people, watching the entire Scottish Opera chorus, orchestra and principals perform *The Beggar's Opera* on a totally unnecessary London visit that must have cost thousands.

But the present administration has been scrupulously prudent. It warned the Scottish Arts Council two years ago that, if it continued to receive "standstill" grants, a sickening crunch would be inevitable in the autumn of 1995, when some substantial private funding (from the incorrigibly generous opera-lover Peter Moores) ran out.

In the meantime, it has slashed every budget and entered into protracted debate about either disbanding its orchestra (and hiring another Scottish orchestra) or merging it with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. Scottish Opera considered this option thrice, and decided against each time. An opera company that has to borrow somebody else's orchestra, it felt, is sliding to oblivion.

Perhaps that is debatable. What is not debatable, sadly, is the grim certainty that disbanding the orchestra would have led to a musicians' boycott. That would have destroyed Scottish Opera quicker than anything else.



IN THE ARTS

RICHARD MORRISON

The easy way out now would be if the ambitious Michael Forsyth, Scottish Secretary, conjured up the extra £750,000 that would keep Scottish Opera full-time. Simply as a way of safeguarding 230 jobs, that does not seem too illogical an action. And there is a precedent: Welsh National Opera extracted the same sort of crisis money from the Welsh Secretary a few years back.

However, two arguments stand against this ostensibly desirable denouement. The first is that a mountain of new money for the arts is *already* available. But it is lottery money, of course, and hence all earmarked for "capital" projects. Rather than try your patience once again by peddling my views on this preposterous matter, let me quote Scottish Opera's chairman: "It will be totally incomprehensible to future generations that large sums could be spent on buildings while arts companies that could help fill them were allowed to wither."

Quite. And the fact that two of the largest lottery sums will most likely be spent on huge opera-house projects in London and Cardiff only serves to rub salt into Scottish Opera's wounds.

Secondly, Scottish Opera's predicament is partly the result of Scotland's chosen arts priorities. The £4.7 million given to Scottish Opera must be seen in the context, for instance, of a whopping £8.7 million given to something called the "Gaelic TV fund" and another £1.9 million for "Gaelic education". I love a *ceilidh* as much as the next Morrison, but £10.6 million does seem an awful lot of precious subsidy to lavish on 90,000 Gaelic speakers — less than 2 per cent of Scotland's population.

Scotland must now urgently decide whether it wants to play the opera game seriously. Scottish Opera has had its triumphs, and with its current, top-class music director (Richard Armstrong) it could have them again. It could also call on a superb current crop of native composers, notably Judith Weir and James MacMillan, to provide a stream of specifically Scottish operas. Given all that, one could easily imagine a scenario in which Scottish Opera was the performance jewel in the crown of a quasi-independent nation.

But quasi-independent nations must pick up the tab for their pleasures — and the bill for even a modestly-run opera company always comes as a shock to naive laymen such as myself. Do the Scots really want to pay it? I would not blame them if they said no. But to keep Scottish Opera dangling in a kind of comatose half-life, unable to match the quality of product emerging even from the English — well, that would be demeaning both for the company and the country.

Elegant but no depth

[illegible]

St Petersburg PO/Temirkanov
Royal Concert Hall, Glasgow

The St Petersburg Philharmonic and the Sofia Philharmonic have both set out on tours of Britain this week, and between them they will be giving 30 performances of major works by Tchaikovsky before the end of the month. As soon as they have gone, the Moscow Radio Symphony Orchestra will be here to give 17 more Tchaikovsky performances — and that does not include Boris Tchaikovsky's *English Capriccio*, which is reserved for Southend at the end of the month.

How much a proliferation of this kind adds to British musical life is open to question. But at least the Glasgow Royal Concert Hall was positive about it and, engaging Yuri Temirkanov and the St Petersburg Philharmonic to perform the six numbered symphonies in two days, made a valuable little Tchaikovsky festival out of the situation. Sheffield City Hall is doing much the same thing next week, and so is the Barbican the week after.

A calculated approach to Tchaikovsky is useful in the Second (*Little Russian*) and Third (*Polish*) symphonies. These works do not have the emotional inspiration of the last three and can only benefit from Temirkanov's grace in phrasing, his fine pointing of dance rhythms, his delight in repetitions which others tend to find embarrassing. He made no effort to demonstrate that the rarely heard Symphony No 3 in D is anything more than a superior suite for orchestra, but he did not have to: the melodic charm of the *Alla tedesca* and the oddly rueful mood of the *Andante elegiaco* are rewarding in themselves, particularly when the orchestra is as well prepared as the St Petersburg Philharmonic.

With a work such as the Fifth Symphony Temirkanov has less to offer. When, for example, he shades away the second subject of the first movement so that it almost disappears, he does it so consciously that he gets in the way. He did much the same in the first movement of the *Pathétique*, where contemplation of the conductor's sensitivity and of the refinement of the strings is even less relevant. Immediately after that, however, he tried to inject more dramatic immediacy into the interpretation and, after middle movements presented with elegance and vitality, he did penetrate, though not very far and not very painfully, beneath the surface of the suicidal last movement.

What made him choose *Nimrod* as an encore is difficult to imagine, but at least it was not *Greensleeves*.

GERALD LARNER

Consider yourself well in

THEATRE

Oliver!
Palladium

As substitutions go, it is like Gullit for Cantona. Jonathan Pryce may have left Sam Mendes's revival of *Oliver!*, but the actor replacing him as Fagin is Jim Dale, who has been in America winning admirers and awards for so long that we here have forgotten what an exuberant performer he is. At the age of 60, he sometimes seems younger and more energetic than the tots frolicking in his thieves' kitchen.

Pryce's Fagin was a sly, canny creature with an undertow of anarchy, who slid through the shadows like a raddled old spider. Though he introduces a hint of melancholy here and there, Dale is more often a larky pantaloon or skinny, mischievous goblin. He skips nimbly about, whirling his eyes, limbering up his hands like a pianist preparing for a concerto, and breaking into the odd silly walk. It is as well that Lionel Bart does not end his musical as Dickens did his novel. So far from allowing himself to be ritually hanged, this irrepressibly physical Fagin would do bravura rope-tricks in the death chamber, reducing the executioner to despairing applause.

It hardly needs saying that Dale is not very sinister or dangerous: but then neither Bart's text nor Mendes's production wants him to be. The show's opening, with a huddled, vestigially female figure staggering through the murk into the all-grey maw of the workhouse, suggests that we may be in for lots of Dickensian grime and grit. But that promise is soon dented by a chorus of *Food, Glorious Food* that sounds less like a lament for empty stomachs than a salute to the Euro-sausage, and it is all but dispelled by a London filled with Punch and Judy stalls and vistas of St Paul's.

Nevertheless, genuinely dramatic and even Dickensian moments break through more often than I recall when the show opened last December. Anthony Ward designs a mean funeral parlour for Oliver to escape, as well as a shabby-gaudy underground dorm for the lost boys, and does splendidly creepy things with fog and bridges when it is time for Sikes to kill Nancy.

MARILYN KINGWILL

Artful and playful: Paul Bailey as Dodger and the irrepressible Jim Dale as Fagin — "a skinny, mischievous goblin"

Moreover, their little love-affair generates a surprising amount of feeling and tension, played as it is by two exceptional performers.

I had always thought *As Long As He Needs Me* embarrassingly sentimental, dating from an era when it was still agreed that, as Coward said, women should be struck regularly, like gongs. But not the way Sally Dexter delivers it, her hair astray and voice dark with embattled emotion. She is a superb Nancy, and Miles Anderson a Sikes of impressive weight and menace. I liked the hat that half-hides his eyes and I liked his waddling white dog, but it is his brooding silences and disconcerting cackles of laughter that do the job.

A final question. Couldn't Fagin be more, er, Jewish? It is not only Dickens who extends that invitation, but Bart, by adding Yiddish rhythms to *Reviewing the Situation* and retaining the repetitive "my dear" of the book. Ron Moody accepted the challenge, but Pryce did not and Dale does not. Surely there must be a way of respecting an author's intentions without falling into anti-Semitic caricature — or, in these super-sensitive days, is that too much to ask?

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

A Wilde lost for words

An Ideal Husband
Salisbury Playhouse

NOBODY'S perfect. That is the lesson that Lady Chiltern, the strictly moral romantic, must learn about her adored husband in Wilde's drama of 1895 in which Sir Robert's domestic bliss and parliamentary prestige are nearly blighted by evil Mrs Cheveley, a nasty blast from the past with blackmail up her sleeve.

Nobody is word perfect anyway in Nicholas Le Prevost's production, reopening the much-loved Salisbury Playhouse. Perhaps the young actress Elli Garnett was overwhelmed by the occasion, but her Mrs Cheveley had surprising trouble even finishing her sentences. Rupert Bates's Sir Robert acted gallantly, politely prompting his tormentor.

This is a grand-looking production. The Chilterns' Grosvenor Square residence is all neo-classical columns, gilt and stucco. Nicholas Boulton's Goring, the trifling viscount who proves a profound friend, cuts a dapper figure, and high society's bitchy young ladies flutter their fans prettily.

However, the repartee is all awry, a surprising flattening of wit from a director once nominated for an Olivier Award for best comedy performance, and the satirical caricatures are too crude.

Boulton, boyish, cocky and concerned, shows promise. Goring's pouting butler (Christopher Gee) is a treat. Zoe Aldrich as Lady Chiltern commendably combines pure Essex with a passion. The production may not be impeccable, but the people of Salisbury seemed happy to have their playhouse back.

KATE BASSETT

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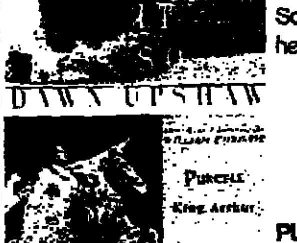

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WED 1st, THUR 2nd & FRI 3rd NOVEMBER at 7.30pm
SAT 4 NOV at 3pm & 7.30pm SOLD OUT & SUN 5 NOV at 3.00pm & 7.30pm
ROYAL ALBERT HALL BOX OFFICE: 0171 589 8212
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ROYAL OPERA HOUSE, COVENT GARDEN
Sunday 10th December at 7 pm
ENGLISH BACH FESTIVAL
Director: Lina Lalandi OBE
presents...

LE BOURGEOIS GENTILHOMME

LULLY-MOLIÈRE

DIDO AND AENEAS

PURCELL
with Della Jones

Information from: The English Bach Festival: 0171-730 5925
The Royal Opera House Box Office: 0171-304 4000
Box Office opens 11th October

ROYAL ALBERT HALL SUNDAY 12 NOV at 7.30
in aid of NABS (National Association of Bereavement Services)

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY CONCERT

50 YEARS ON

London Festival Orchestra/Ross Pople
Goldsmiths Choral Union London Concert Choir
Deborah York *Soprano* Nicholas Gedge *Bass*
FAURE **Requiem**
COPLAND **Fanfare for the Common Man**
SIBELIUS **Finlandia** BARBER **Adagio for Strings**
BORODIN **Polovtsian Dances**
ELGAR **'Nimrod' from Enigma Variations & Pomp & Circumstance March No 1**
BOX OFFICE: 0171 589 8212 CC HOTLINE 0171 312 1995

RAYMOND GUBBAY presents at the
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SATURDAY NEXT at 8 pm

OPERA GALA NIGHT

Four star soloists in a superb evening of great operatic favourites including
Toreador's Song (Carmen), Duet (Pearlfishers) Anvil Chorus (Il Trovatore), Va Pensiero (Nabucco), Grand March (Aida), Flower Duet (Lakme), Nessun Dorma (Turandot), One Fine Day (Madam Butterfly), Largo al factotum (Barber of Seville) & many more
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ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA
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Sat 7 Oct 6.00pm NB: time	KUHMO FESTIVAL Artists incl. Patrick Gallois flute, Virtuosi di Kuhmo etc. *Mahler: Piano Quartet; Debussy: Fêtes galantes* Enescu: Violin Sonata No.3; Sibelius: Suite caractéristique; Bartók: Romanian Folk dances Evening Sponsors: Kuhmo OY & The Talis Group All seats £8 Main Sponsor: Outokumpu Group
Sat 7 Oct 8.00pm NB: time	KUHMO FESTIVAL Artists incl. Peter Frankl piano, Sibelius Quartet etc. Prokofiev: Overture; Strauss: Emperor Waltz; Bartók: Contrasts; Antheil: Violin Sonata No.2; Koechlin: Quintet Op.156 *Primavera* Evening Sponsors: Kuhmo OY & The Talis Group All seats £8 Main Sponsor: Outokumpu Group
Sun 8 Oct 11.30am NB: time	*VIRTUOSI DI KUHMO* Coffee Concert KUHMO FESTIVAL IN LONDON Jean Sibelius and his times Peter Csaba conductor/violin Sibelius: Suite Op.117; Humoresques Nos.3 & 4 Op.89; Suite champêtre Op.98b; Bartók: Divertimento Op.113 £7 incl. prog & coffee/sherry/juice
Sun 8 Oct 7.00pm NB: time	*PALLADIAN ENSEMBLE* *Early Music & Baroque Series* SUSAN GRITTON soprano PURCELL'S LONDON Songs, Suites, Sonatas and Grounds by Purcell, Blow, Locke, Matteis, Weldon and Baltzar etc. £14, £12, £8, £6
Mon 9 Oct 7.30pm	NO STRINGS ATTACHED clarinet quartet; KIRSTEN SPRATT flute; ELIZABETH MUCHA piano. New commissions by Fitkin, Mower & Hayes; works by Bach, Debussy, Turnage, Leibermann, Harty & Martinu £11, £9, £7, £5 South East Music Schemes Sponsors: BAA London Gatwick
Tues 10 Oct 8.00pm NB: time	SARAH WALKER mezzo soprano The Britten Songs MALCOLM MARTINEAU piano. Schumann: Liederkreis Op.39 Britten: Beware; Winter Words; Cabaret Songs £14, £12, £8 (only) Supp. by The Britten Estate Ltd/BBC Radio 3 *6pm: Pre-Concert talk: Dr Adrian Poole & Gabriel Woolf* £2
Wed 11 Oct 7.30pm	VANBRUGH QUARTET 10th Anniversary Concert Beethoven: String Quartet in E flat Op.127 Purcell: Chaconne in G minor M. Berkeley: Magnetic Field (première); Bartók: Quartet No.3 £14, £12, £9, £6 Neil Chaffey Concert Promotions
Thurs 12 Oct 7.30pm	Chilingirian Quartet; Yuko Inoue viola; A Concert for Jane Gray Angela Hewitt piano; Malcolm Binns piano; Stephen Orton cello Bach: Preludes & Fugues Bk I Nos.1 - 4; Schubert: Quartettsatz D703; Brahms: String Sextet in G Op.36; Fauré: 2 Nocturnes £15, £12.50, £10, £7.50 In aid of the Royal Brompton Hospital
Fri 13 Oct 7.30pm	DAVITT MORONEY harpsichord Early Music & Baroque Series Bach: Goldberg Variations BWV988 £12, £10, £8, £6 Wigmore Hall
Sat 14 Oct 7.30pm	VIENNA & THE ROMANTIC CENTURY. The Nash Ensemble, Joan Rodgers soprano, Beethoven: Trio in B flat Op.11 Berg: 7 Early Songs; Mahler: Songs from *Des Knaben Wunderhorn* Richard Strauss: Suite in B flat Op.4 £14, £12, £9, £6 6.30pm: Pre-Concert talk: Paul Griffiths (Free to ticket holders)

Royal Festival Hall

on the South Bank

sbc

Royal Festival Hall RFH 1 Tel 0171 960 4200 10am - 9pm

Sat 7 Oct 7.30	**Philharmonia Orchestra** Kurt Sanderling (cond) András Schiff (pno) Beethoven Piano Conc Nos.2, 3 & 4. 6.00pm Music of Today, pre-conc concert, J MacMillan. Admission free by concert ticket £34 - £5
Sun 8 Oct 7.30	**BBC Symphony Orchestra** Andrew Davis (cond) Nadja Salerno-Sonnenberg (vln) Delius Brigg Fair; Shostakovich Violin Concerto No.1 Elgar Symphony No.1 in A flat, Op.55 £10 (unreserved)
Tue 10 Oct 7.30	**The London Philharmonic** Resident at the RFH A Century of Scandinavian Music Franz Welser-Möst (cond) Rolf Hind (pno) Sibelius Finlandia; Sym No.1; Ruders Conc for Piano (1st perf) RFH1 6.15pm Free talk. £30 - £5
Wed 11 Oct 7.30	**Philharmonia Orchestra** Beethoven Piano Concerto Cycle. Kurt Sanderling (cond) András Schiff (pno) Beethoven Piano Concerto No.1; Piano Concerto No.5 (Emperor) £14.50, £10, £5
Thu 12 Oct 7.30	**Academy of St Martin in the Fields** Sir Neville Marriner (cond) Maria Joao Pires (pno) Mozart Ov., The Magic Flute; Piano Conc in B flat, K.595; Ibert Hommage à Mozart; Tchaikovsky Suite No.4 £10
Fri 13 Oct 7.30	**The London Philharmonic** Resident at the RFH *Owain Arwel Hughes (cond) Chee-Yun (vln)* Berlioz Overture, Le Corsaire; Fauré Pavane; Lalo Symphonie espagnole; Dvořák Symphony No.7 £12, £5

Queen Elizabeth Hall RFH 2 Tel 0171 960 4200 10am - 9pm

Sun 8 Oct 3.30	**Gianluca Cascioli** International Piano Series Winner Umberto Micheli International Piano Competition 1994. Beethoven Son, Op.26; Son quasi un Fantasia in E flat, Op.27, No.1; Debussy Preludes, Book 1 £15, £10, £6
Sun 8 Oct 7.45	**London Philharmonic Youth Orchestra** Northern Lights: A Century of Scandinavian Music Andrea Quinn (cond) Alison Farr (pno) Ruders Thus Saw *St. John; Grieg Piano Conc; Nielsen Sym No.5 £10, £7, £4*
Mon 9 Oct 7.45	**Canadian Brass** Blasting brass from the world's top brass quintet in a rare British concert that includes brass suites from Carmen and Porgy & Bess. £12.50, £10
Tue 10 Oct 7.45	**Lindsay String Quartet** International Chamber Music Series. Louise Williams (vla) Mozart Adagio & Fugue in C min, K.546; String Quin in C, K.515; String Quin in G *minor*, K.516 £16, £13, £10, £6
Wed 11 Oct 7.45	**London Mozart Players** Matthias Bamert (cond) Cecile Ousset (pno) Mozart Sym *No.31 (Paris); Fauré Ballade for Piano and Orch; Saint-*Saëns Piano Conc No.2; Bizet Sym in C £18.50 - £8
Fri 13 Oct 7.45	**The Aphex Twin** as part of the Hear No Evil season Richard James performs a special mix of his myriad-faceted ambient "acid/techno" music to accompany a silent horror classic (film tba). £9

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BBC *Symphony* Orchestra

Andrew Davis conductor

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Joan Baez

UK TOUR OCTOBER 1995

22nd MANCHESTER Apollo [illegible]
23rd LONDON [illegible] Hall
24th [illegible]
26th LIVERPOOL Philharmonic ** [illegible]
25th WARWICK Arts Centre ** [illegible]
27th YORK Barbican * [illegible]
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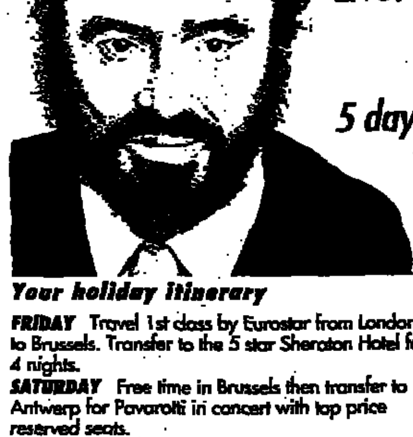

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POP

The money doesn't matter, honestly: Mick Hucknall talks about the Simply Red meaning of *Life*

BASE NOTES

Nigel Williams's new play, *Harry and Me*, is put on the back-burner by the Royal Court

THE TIMES ARTS

BASE NOTES

Siberian violin virtuoso Maxim Vengerov takes the big prize at the *Gramophone* award ceremony

RECORDS

A stunning new album of tenor arias from Roberto Alagna, reviewed in Weekend, page 13

Keeping the Red flag flying

Alan Jackson talks to Mick Hucknall about life and *Life*, Simply Red's new album

Simply Red scored their first hit in June 1985, a year in which Dead or Alive, Feargal Sharkey, Midge Ure and Shakin' Stevens numbered among the ranks of Britain's home-grown chart toppers. But Mick Hucknall & Co stalled at No 13 with their rousing cover of the Valentine Brothers' polemical dance track *Money's Too Tight (To Mention)* and, despite subsequent album sales that would easily justify any claim to their being the nation's favourite band, they had still not secured a No 1 single here a full ten years later.

Yet none of those chart-toppers has maintained a musical output to excite later record buyers. And though such genuine icons of that era as Madonna, Michael Jackson and Prince have survived to fight a further decade, not even they still achieve the phenomenal sales of their 1980s heyday. Clever Hucknall then for presiding over a still-building career — *Fairground*, Simply Red's current single, debuted at No 1 two weeks ago and is still there.

"If image is central to what you do, it's very easy to get stuck in time, forever associated with some moment in the recent past," the singer observes. "I prefer the notion of small image, big music." So, although unmistakable with his flowing orange locks, he has kept a low public profile and concentrated instead on discreetly advancing and updating his music.

But then Hucknall was never one of rock's conspicuous consumers. At a time when many early contemporaries were busy building up perceptions of themselves as members of some rock'n'roll aristocracy, the forthright Mancunian was espousing Labour politics to the media and refusing point-blank to discuss his private life. "The 1980s were about making it big and letting everyone know you had," he says. "Now people want less fanfare, a little more reality — which suits me fine."

If he wished to assert his claim on a new decade, he could hardly have done so more emphatically than with Simply Red's fourth LP *Stars*. Released in the autumn of 1991, it went on to be Britain's biggest-selling album not only of that year but also of 1992. A less secure artist might panic: how to eclipse or at least replicate that success? "I find the notion of fixating on sales figures just too tragic," Hucknall says. "Of course, I want people to buy my records, but my only thought when making them is to come up with something that sounds great and which will endure. I was fundamentally happy before I had money, and I'm still happy now. How many millions do you need?"

On Monday, a long-awaited fifth album goes on sale. Titled *Life*, it draws on soul, R'n'B and reggae traditions in the same assured way as its predecessors, yet discreetly absorbs stylistic elements associated with such recent critical favourites as Massive Attack and Tricky. "Things change and you respond accordingly — though I've always tried to avoid sounding too obviously of the moment," Hucknall says. "As to the songs, this time I didn't even use a guitar or piano. If a tune stands up when it's just a voice unaccompanied, you've got something the window cleaner will be able to whistle."

> ‘I was happy before I had money, and I'm happy now’

This less-is-more approach extends to Hucknall's singing. "A lot of people like to take you to church and back within the first four bars," he says. "That's not my style. I take the line walked by Frank Sinatra, Johnny Hartman, Marvin Gaye... wait until the end to do all the clever stuff. Their story-telling approach appeals to me. It's an almost conversational style that allows a genuine intimacy between the singer and the listener."

The British success of *Life* is assured — it will enter the LP charts at No 1 next weekend, and is likely still to figure in the upper reaches a year from now. But to Hucknall's satisfaction, early reports suggest that America may like it too: in contrast to their domestic fortunes, Simply Red topped the Hot 100 both in 1986 with *Holding Back The Years* and in 1989 with *If You Don't Know Me By Now*, but have failed to become established there as a significant albums act. A two-year world tour in support of the title — British dates begin at Wembley Arena on December 18 — will further bolster its chances.

Simple life: Mick Hucknall professes himself unimpressed by rock'n'roll excess — "how many millions do you need?"

The singer is adamant that this will be the last time he takes to the road on such a scale; now 35, he is keen to allow himself considerably more of a private life in the future. Pleasing himself will remain a professional priority also. There had been plans for a collaborative project with Miles Davis before the trumpeter's death in 1991, and now Hucknall says it is unlikely that he will ever make the jazz album that he once spoke of as a career ambition.

However, he is co-founder of and is actively involved with the record label Blood & Fire, committed to making available again classic reggae recordings, and is so motivated by a love of music that it seems unlikely he will ever totally remove himself from the industry.

Meanwhile, there is the prospect of a new rush of chart achievements, several million more singles and albums sold. Only one cloud hovers on the horizon. "What if all this means I'll end up being written off as a 1990s icon?" he worries. "What will I do if I get tossed on the scrapheap in the year 2000?"

● *Life is released on the eastwest label. Phone the Simply Red tour hotline (0891-615 477) for details of concerts in London, Birmingham, Glasgow, Manchester, Newcastle and Sheffield during December, January and February.*

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

JONATHAN CHURCH

Profession: The new artistic director of the reopened, reshaped Salisbury Playhouse (see page 17 for a review of its first production).

Age: 28

His start: Having been in the theatre from the day he left school, Church already has a full-grown CV. He is the child of theatrical parents who met at Nottingham Playhouse. His mother was an actress. His father was the lights and sound man. As a youngster, Church trod the boards there and played a pit boy in Trevor Griffiths's BBC TV adaptation of *Sons and Lovers*.

And then? He began his adult career as a lighting designer but blossomed under Clare Venables at the Sheffield Crucible. Taken on there as an assistant stage manager, he was also encouraged to direct late-night shows. He was picked up as a stage manager by Hull Truck, then, returning to his roots, by Nottingham Playhouse, where Pip Broughton further nurtured his directing. Since then, he has set up his own company, called Triptych (Trevor Griffiths is one of its patrons), and is also associate director at Derby Playhouse.

So what is the plan at Salisbury? Salisbury Playhouse closed with a mighty deficit and an audience that had been estranged by Deborah Paige's radical programming. But for years it was the best attended regional repertory theatre in the country, and it still has a staunchly loyal following. The theatre's closure, refurbishment and administrative overhaul (as was the case with Broughton's Nottingham Playhouse) has stimulated great excitement. Bookings are buzzing. On the open day, hundreds of people turned up: too many, in fact, to fit on stage for the unveiling. "We have two missions," Church explains, sensibly. "We must bring the audience back in and we must make them feel comfortable and that we are accountable to them. Then there is the studio with new plays. I am passionate about developing a younger audience and keen that the studio will not be a second-class space."

On himself: "I'm a believer in collaboration. As a director, you are a filter and guide. Writers are the grand planners. I'm unfashionably suspicious of director's theatre. I also feel like the Lib Dem of the theatre world. I don't think that either the artistic or the practical can exist alone. I want to mine the middle ground, and make theatre that's inspiring and accessible. I didn't imagine this post happening so soon but, having started, I do feel ready. I don't feel 28 any more."

KATE BASSETT

Hot prospect from the frozen north

A 21-YEAR-OLD violinist from Siberia has become the youngest-ever recipient of the Record of the Year honour in the annual *Gramophone* awards. **Maxim Vengerov**, who won the Young Artist of the Year in 1994, this year walked away with the top award for his recording of the Prokofiev and Shostakovich First Violin Concertos with Mstislav Rostropovich and the LSO.

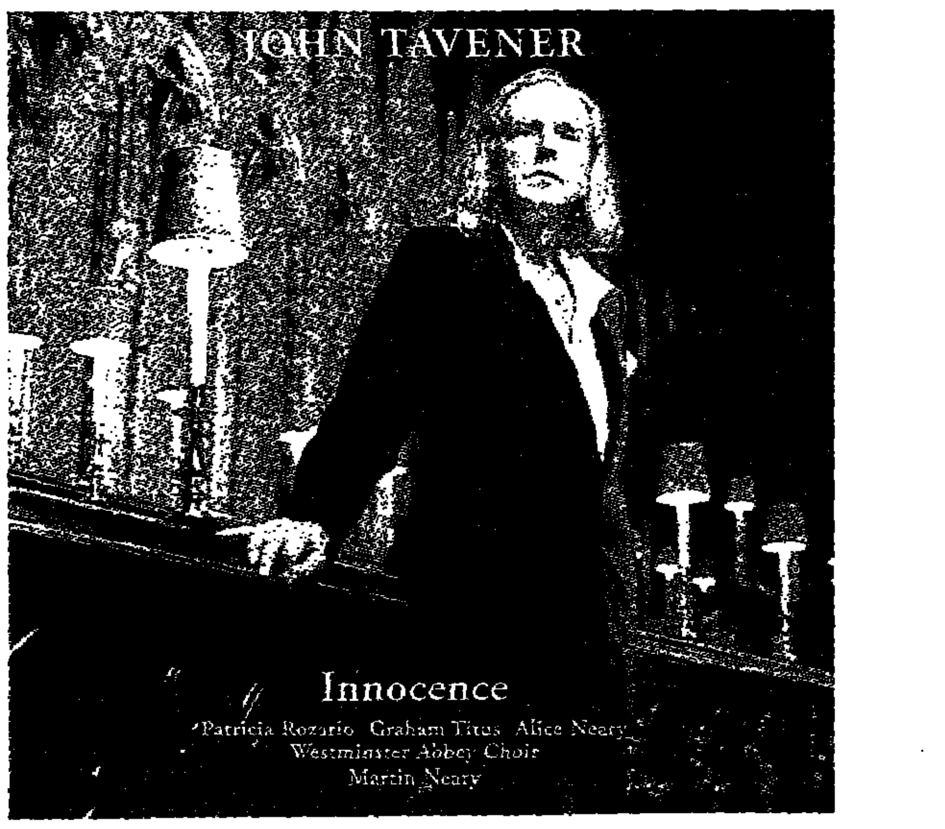
BASE NOTES

● THE **Nigel Williams** play *Harry and Me* has been postponed by the Royal Court Theatre because one of its co-stars has dropped out of the production. The play stopped rehearsals after two weeks when **Alun Armstrong** withdrew because, says a spokeswoman, "he felt script changes were not right for him to continue". Armstrong's role will now be recast. *Harry and Me* is expected to open at the Royal Court in the spring, with co-star Sheila Hancock still in place.

● SIGNALLING the advent of Christmas, always a key time in the record industry sales calendar, a virtual deluge of *Best Of...*, *Greatest Hits* and other retrospective packages is heading our way. Among those first off the blocks are **Madonna** (a collection of her ballad hits), **Janet Jackson**, **Luther Vandross**, **Human League** and **Robert Palmer**. All will be in record stores within the month.

● PLAYING the coveted role of the eternal bachelor Bobby in the Donmar Warehouse production of **Stephen Sondheim's** 1970 musical *Company* in December will be **Adrian Lester**. The casting makes Lester the first black male ever to star in a Sondheim musical on either side of the Atlantic. "There is a curse that has to be taken off the show," says the director Sam Mendes, who cast Lester in the part. "And that is the white middle-class chic New York curse, which is above all the thing that dates it most."

● WHEN **Fiona Shaw** starts previews at the National Theatre next week as Millamant in *The Way of the World*, few may be aware that the Irish actress has played Congreve's Restoration-era classic before. Before her current performance as Richard II, Shaw led a starry quartet (**Clare Higgins**, **Alex Jennings** and **John Wood** were the others) in a gender-crossed workshop of the play at the National Theatre Studio, directed by **Deborah Warner**. The project lasted three days, at which point the actress recalls the ensemble abandoned the experiment. "We all left having a glass of champagne, and that was it," says Shaw. "It was one of the funniest moments of my life."



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After the success of Tony Blair, the spectre of the white heat of technology is back to haunt the Tory conference, says **Julian Critchley**

John Major and the spirit of '63

This week I have been watching the Labour Party's conference on television; next week I shall do as much for the Tories. Age, cunning and infirmity will combine to keep me away from Blackpool, that blustery borough that has turned its back upon England, where once every three years the lower middle classes (the Conservatives) mingle with the working.

When I was 20, I thought it a city of magic with its lights, trams and tower, and, with my ticket paid for by the Hampstead Tories, I would sit and listen to the Great Ones of our party; Winston Churchill, Harry Crookshank, and "Captain" Macmillan: in the evenings I would pursue the trim-waisted secretaries of some Midlands Young Conservative branch to the music of Joe Loss. *Ou sont les neiges?*

This year reminds me all too vividly of 1963, and the similarities between the parties are, in fact, remarkable. In 1963, Labour had elected Harold Wilson in place of Hugh Gaitskell, who had died in somewhat mysterious circumstances earlier that year: in 1995 Tony Blair has succeeded John Smith, a graver Scot who had perhaps more in common with Gaitskell's Hampstead rectitude that he would have had with Tony Blair's puck-line charm.

In 1963 Harold Wilson had begun his ascent to Downing Street, matching an ailing Harold Macmillan at Prime Minister's Questions, seizing the political initiative, and proclaiming that socialism would be built in "the white heat of the technological revolution". In 1995 Tony Blair seems to have turned the Labour Party away from socialism towards social democracy, and to have succeeded, where Roy Jenkins and David Owen failed. He is even sending his son to a direct-grant school. Wilson made a concordat with the trade union bosses, who were much more powerful than they are today; Blair has charmed what is left of the "movement" from the branches of trees like so many dicky birds. There is a commitment to a minimum wage, but the platform has put no figure on it. As for the "technological revolution", Blair has invited BT to come to the aid of his party.

Every commentator that I have read this week has regarded Blair's speech as a stunning success. Thirty years ago, the commentators of a more Tory-inclined press were saying much the same about Harold Wilson. In 1963, Labour had endured "the 13 wasted years of Conservative Governments" (a slogan, surely, of genius): in 1995, 16 years have passed since James Callaghan left No 10 to go on to play the part of elder statesman in the Lords. All these coincidences could amount to nothing — until one examines the state of the Conservative Government today.

In 1963, Harold Macmillan had succumbed to scandal (Profumo) and to the hostility of the right wing of his party. His prostate gland was thought to be cancerous. Hugh Carleton Greene's BBC had ridiculed both the Prime Minister and his Government, and Henry Brooke, his Home Secretary, was an albatross around the party's neck. And, as today, the Tories were a mile behind in the polls.

In 1995, John Major has survived a leadership challenge in which John Redwood, largely unknown beyond Wokingham, polled 89 votes. The party is bitterly divided over Europe and the pace of change. Many Tory MPs secretly believe that defeat in an election, which is likely to take place next autumn, is inevitable. The press, which has become almost universally hostile towards the Major Government makes much of "sleaze" and "greed". Mr Major is respected but not admired. Michael Heseltine, the "biggest beast in the Tory jungle", has been given the role of Prince Rupert of the Rhine, but where is the cavalry?

This year's Blackpool conference, which will be, in all probability, the last before the election, presents the Conservative Government with an almost insuperable obstacle. Can we pull back at least to within striking distance of victory? Winston Churchill asked Paul Reynaud in June 1940: *"Ou est la masse de manoeuvre?"* Is the answer to be *"aucune"*?

Can Michael Heseltine's oratory (he will have three chances to speak to one for John Major) rekindle the will to win both among MPs and party activists? Will Kenneth Clarke play Blücher to Major's Wellington, and turn up in the nick of time when he introduces a vote-winning Budget next November? But most good judges believe there to be no safe room for tax cuts. Will the nationalist wing of the Conservative Party grant Baroness Thatcher a decent burial in Golders Green? Can the death wish which seems to have overcome the party be banished, either by new policies or by superior performances? I hope so, but I have my doubts.

There is one welcome development in this year's Tory party conference. The Friday mornings that used to be given over to *vox pop*, and in which the party was invariably seen at its worst, debating subjects chosen by ballot from the floor, has been abandoned, and a speech from the Prime Minister will take its place. Will Peter Lilley find new scapegoats, or Michael Portillo rock the boat?

When asked what he feared most about being Premier, Harold Macmillan replied "events". Can some unforeseen disaster strike the "new" Labour Party? Will Clarke steal Labour's clothes and rob the public utilities? Will he widen the tax bands and by so doing take more of the relatively poor out of tax — thereby appeasing "Essex man"? Will Gordon Brown start to cost Labour's programme, thus playing into our hands? Can John Major win back the support of the press and, in particular, the tabloids? He has hitherto shrunk from taking them on directly, which he could have done with privacy laws.

I do not know the answers to any of the questions I have posed. I am not standing at the election and can tell the truth as I see it. Aldershot has been cut in two, and we shall hold both seats, but deep down I share what has become almost a universal fear — that the passage of time, 17 years in office, will prove the most severe of handicaps. Paddy Ashdown will come nowhere, (as did the Liberals in 1964), and the election will be more closely fought than at present appears to be the case. But as an old Jewish tailor said to King George VI when the Sovereign was touring Mile End after a blitz in 1940: "If I were you, sir, I would put the Empire in the wife's name."

Julian Critchley is the Conservative MP for Aldershot. The paperback of his autobiography A Bag of Boiled Sweets *(Faber, £6.99) was published last month.*

Out of Africa and out of context

Why is the Royal Academy using artefacts of African life to adorn walls that have hung Rembrandt and Titian?

On Monday night I put on my best suit and attacked the African art show, talk of the town at the Royal Academy. I was immediately stumped. Outside were a dozen prancing Zulu war drummers, skimpily clad in raffia briefs, beaming and whooping at the passing guests. The guests had no idea how to react. Were these renegade militants, satirising the white man's image of Africa? Or were they one of the exhibits, "performance art" courtesy of the Bank of Ulundi? Should we throw coloured beads, or raise a fist in salute? Ambassadorial limousines cruised the forecourt menacingly, as if about to spew AK47s and mow us all down. Or would the president of the RA stand up and read from Jock of the Bushveld? There is no knowing these days.

Both words, Africa and art, throb with political correctness. We know about African crafts. The splendid Museum of Mankind behind the academy is full of them. But as Picasso said: "African art — never heard of it" (before he decided to invent it). Is African the Academy's code for negro, and if so why just Africa? Should the word embrace Egyptian art, Arab art and the art-in-Africa of Romans, Malays, Indians, whites? When 17th-century travellers typefied African culture as "the childhood of mankind", they were punished by history as patronising and racist. Surely the Royal Academy was not going to make the same mistake with art.

Small wonder nobody has staged such a hypersensitive show before, and this one has been afflicted by ethnic lobbyists and curators in screaming fits. But I fear *Africa: the Art of a Continent* does fall into that 17th-century trap, albeit with panache. There are a few majestic pieces, notably the Benin bronzes, which stand out among the indigenous African works. There is much that passes for ethnography, rock paintings, carved sticks, stone heads and pot fragments. Sadly, the Djenne statues from Mali, though available, were omitted on the grounds that most were looted. (Surely most of this stuff was looted in some sense of the word?)

Yet the bulk of the exhibition is what we would expect to find in the attic of a colonial governor, and one with peculiar tastes. It reminds me of the storeroom at Calke Abbey, a mass of diverting junk held in a time warp. The masks are suitably terrifying. The fertility icons are suitably erotic. There are some handsome chairs, beds and stools, albeit most of them apparently "dating from the 20th century". The captions are sparse.

This is sad, given that the £25 catalogue is so vast as to be a coffee-table in its own right and is near unusable at the exhibition. (Another case for the Society for the Suppression of Self-indulgent Catalogues.) I could have done with more textiles and more photographs. That said, the exhibition is a bravura performance, and gloriously lit.

So what of the thesis? Ask the director, Piers Rodgers, whether this is all art and he will reply, "You tell me." But *he* is telling *me*. He is titling it art and putting it in the academy.

Simon Jenkins

To all that protest that this is primarily an exhibition of handicraft design — objects to be used rather than for aesthetic appreciation — the academy points out, defensively, that it asked an artist, Tom Phillips, to select the works. This is supposedly the clincher. Just as Picasso "discovered" African primitivism at the 1907 Trocadero exhibition, so the academy holds that Mr Phillips has "discovered" the art in his rock paintings, masks, stools and bowls. As Duchamp (and the Tate Gallery) maintained, an object becomes art not when created by an artist but when *selected* by one and put in a building designated as a gallery.

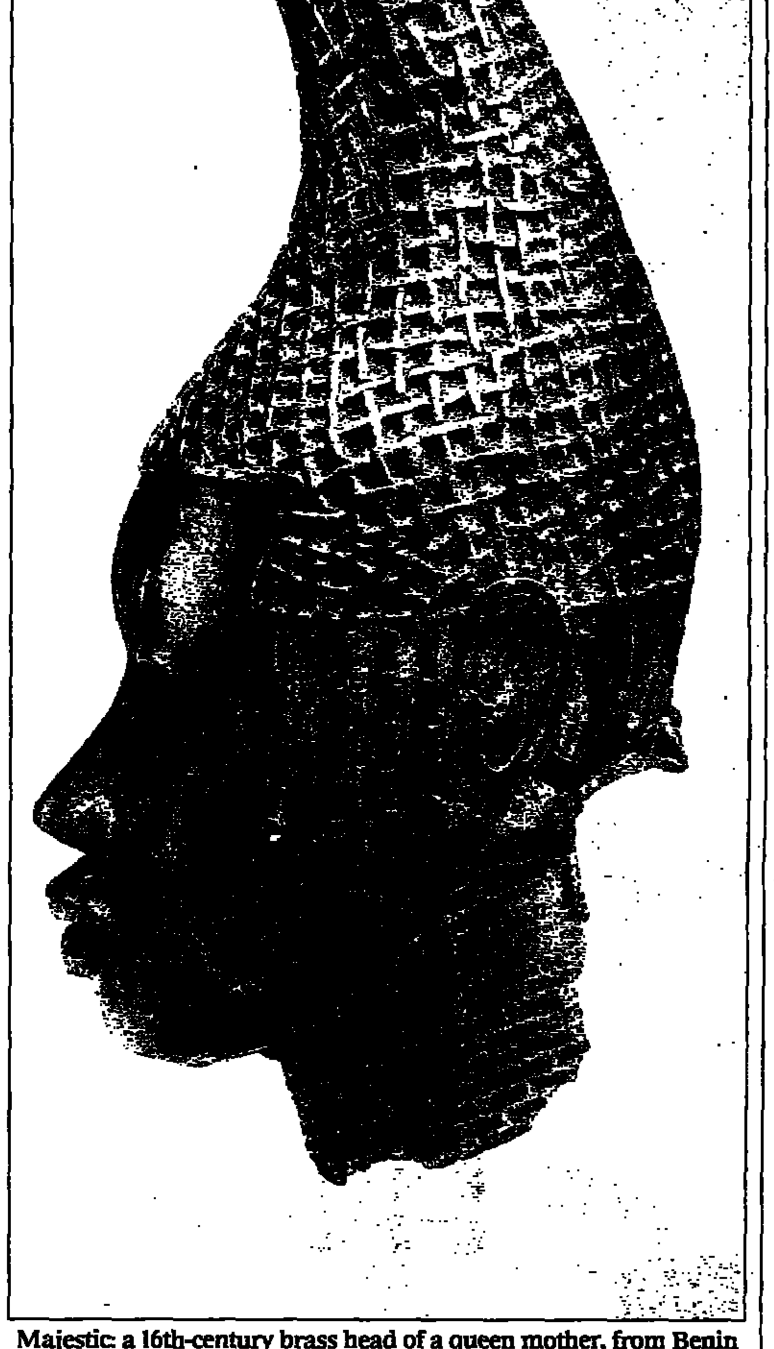
To the exhibition's credit it tackles this. The Harvard historian Kwame Appiah points out in the catalogue that these objects were not made as art (nor even by people who thought of themselves as Africans). All that unites them, he says, is our own decision to treat them in a certain way and bring them together as representing one continent. In seeing these objects as art "we are doing something new with them, something that their makers, and the men and women who paid them, did not do". We are removing them far from the context of their creation and using them for a quite different purpose, to delight and stimulate our European eye. We are taking the domestic objects of African town and village life and putting them on walls that have hung Titian and Rembrandt.

I can appreciate a well-crafted meat platter from KwaZulu or an intricate Nigerian Igbo-Ukwu bowl. The decoration is pretty. I can see that the ubiquitous masks may have served their purpose in amusing or horrifying the communities for whose religious beliefs they had meaning. But put them on a pedestal, light them and declare them to be something quite different — art — and my eye judges them as such, and judges the selector. The daubs and rock paintings and carvings are awesome as echoes of the past. But most of the exhibits are "found objects" of the past century. They are crude and — a word detested by the politically correct — primitive.

Filling the catalogue with adjectives such as powerful, enigmatic and unusual do not take us much further. I prefer Appiah's description of these objects as artefacts. Many if not most could have been picked up at an African crafts shop — and are none the worse for that. But then so could modern African painting, which has been excluded. (Why? For fear of comparison?) But I wonder if the academy would have dared grace this show with the cloak of art had it been selected by an anthropologist rather than a professional artist. Who said the closed shop was dead?

I sense that we are doing exactly what the 17th-century travellers did, patronising an alien culture by bending it to our way of seeing it. I overheard a cynical visitor on Monday wandering round muttering that he was "still looking for the African Michelangelo". He was not going to find one. Even the frequent comparison of the Benin bronzes with the castings of Donatello merely serves to diminish the former. If we are to be challenged in this way to make comparisons we shall be challenging in our honesty: these works are not in the same class as the "art" of Europe or Asia.

This is most noticeable when we turn to the academy's other political dilemma: what to do about non-negro artefacts. The answer has been to present just a select few. Yet the comparison is startling. The sculptured reliefs of the Nile, the Roman mosaics of Tunisia, the ceramics of Arabic North Africa, the arthitecture of Mamluk Cairo are patently more accomplished and sophisticated than the work of the African heartland. The craftsmanship is of a higher quality. The designers are able to adopt and adapt the outside influences.



Majestic: a 16th-century brass head of a queen mother, from Benin

These works are in the exhibition not because they share any particular culture with the negro regions to the south and west, but because they happened to spill onto the same continent from the Mediterranean and the Middle East. This is mere geographical accident. But the academy does not dare include works by white migrants to the continent, no Afrikaner or Portuguese work or British topographical paintings. We know why: imperialist guilt.

The Royal Academy asks us to judge these works as art, rather than as artefacts. It is a reasonable and stimulating challenge. Perhaps to other eyes than mine they pass the test and merit the accolade which they are here accorded. For me this exhibition only rubs home what its agonising political correctness seeks to deny. Take such objects out of their domestic context and hold them up as art and they cannot stand the strain. They look exotic, exciting, colourful, but primitive. But we are not supposed to say that.

Philip Howard

■ The game bird that made a traitorous assault on the Queen may have had an ancient grouse against the monarchy

To be struck by a kamikaze grouse is a chance in 10 million. The Queen was lucky to escape with a bruised breastbone after being hit by a bird flying at 40mph. But at the same time, by bagging her grouse stone dead, she was living up to the oldest British royal tradition. Hunting, not racing or philately, is the real sport of British kings. The proudest moment of a Highland regiment's year is to supply the Balmoral guard. The most dashing officers and respectable soldiers are picked for it. And their main function is to beat the heather for grouse to the royal guns, and in the case of the officers to provide eligible and amusing company for the ladies.

Balmoral was built as a tartan hunting lodge. In 1852 an eccentric miser, John Camden Nield, died, leaving a quarter of a million pounds to Queen Victoria. Victoria deduced that it was because he knew "she would not waste it". She and Albert decided to buy a country retreat in a wild part of their kingdom as a hunting lodge, to remind Albert of his home at Rosenau. They eventually settled on Balmoral, and with its rolling acres of heather and its rolling walls covered with tartan and antlers, it became the royal temple to field sports.

After one of his *battues*, with more than a thousand dead deer arranged in rows on the lawn and ghillies discharging fusillades into the night sky, Albert described the scene as "a veritable witch's dance supported by whisky".

After Albert's death, Victoria became doggedly more Scottish. The Royal Family shot the driven grouse, the fastest and most elusive game bird, and stalked. And John Brown, the chief ghillie, became Victoria's friend and her bridge to the past. Not without some scandal in contemporary tabloids. She liked the grouse-moor way he brewed her tea, with a nip of whisky.

Hunting and shooting, and the largesse that goes with them, are part of a royal tradition stretching back to such myths of time as *Gawain and the Green Knight*, where venery in both senses is the key to the plot. Victoria's grandson, George V, was not at ease with his metropolitan or intellectual subjects. But on his favourite moors and coverts, he was the equal of anyone in his country, and his bags of birds laid out in rows equalled Prince Albert's slaughter of stags.

The passion for hunting is deep in the royal breast. William the Conqueror's enclosure of the New Forest enraged the unsporting English. Henry of Huntingdon wrote: "If anyone killed a stag or a wild boar, his eyes were put out, and no one presumed to complain. But beasts of chase he cherished as if they were his children. So as to form the hunting ground of the New Forest he caused churches and villages to be destroyed, and, driving out the people, made it an habitation for deer."

Hunting was an atavistic symbol of the king's function to feed his people, as well as fun. Henry VIII built St James's Palace in the woods of Westminster as a hunting lodge and a secret rendezvous for romps with Anne Boleyn, so combining two royal pleasures. Queen Elizabeth I shot driven stag at Nonsuch and her other palaces. On his unsuccessful visit to regain the Crown for the Stewarts, Bonny Prince Charlie went grouse shooting in the Pentlands, for food but also to demonstrate his royal rights.

The monarch's responsibility to feed his people has been devolved and made figurative. But the old hunting instinct is strong. That dive-bombing grouse may have been disorientated by panic. It may have been blind. But it just may have recognised the ancestral royal protector, encloser, and loving hunter of its tribe, and been trying to take revenge for a thousand years of grouse being served up rare with game chips.

DIARY

Spy sellout

A MEMBER of the family headed by the world's richest man, the Sultan of Brunei, is negotiating to buy the Government's former "spycatcher" building in Curzon Street, Mayfair, which is for sale for about £50 million.

The 1930s building was one of the principal offices of the Security Service, now headed by Stella Rimington, until MI5 centralised operations into one building earlier this year. It was a nerve-centre for counter-espionage operations, but was equally renowned for its Christmas party with the Director-General of MI5, and for the convivial nature of its bar.

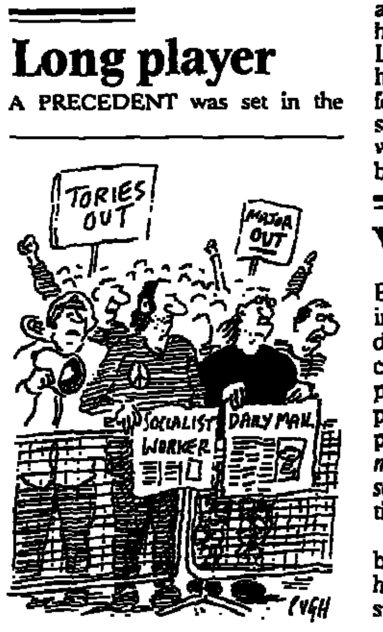
Should the new owner manage to demolish the building — it is bomb-proof — the site would provide an ideal development opportunity. A spokesman for the Sultan denied that His Excellency was involved in the bid, but there are suggestions that his flamboyant younger brother Prince Jeffri may be behind it. The prince is currently converting the former Playboy Club on Park Lane into one of the largest and most luxurious palaces in London.

According to the property magazine *Estates Times*, the Brunei bid for the building is up against offers from Gerald Ronson and the Duke of Westminster. "It is a prime site, an acre in Mayfair that lends itself to a very attractive development," Ronson is reported as saying.

Long player

A PRECEDENT was set in the Long Room at Lord's on Thursday evening when Julian Bream, a fanatical cricketer and classical guitarist of international renown, gave a recital. Never before had music been played in the most hallowed hall of cricket's most famous ground.

Introducing the guitarist, who played at the invitation of the Lord's Taverners, was the lyricist Sir Tim Rice. "Will you please give a rousing reception to a man who has always wanted to play at Lord's," he said. "At last he now has his chance." Bream played up for the occasion: he wandered to the stage in bat and pads, admitted he was "usually clean-bowled first ball", then raised his guitar.



Virtual miss

EDITORS at Picador, the publishing house, have some explaining to do after an extraordinary fiasco concerning one of their most important books this autumn. The publishing house almost failed to print any copies of *Virtually Normal: An Argument about Homosexuality* by Andrew Sullivan, in time for the launch next week.

The controversial nature of the book, which argues for the right of homosexuals to marry, has ensured advance publicity. "We received our first consignment of finished copies today," said Picador yesterday. "We would normally expect copies six weeks before publication so this is cutting it very fine. Our printers say they had too much to do." Could it be that Picador simply forgot to order the print run in time?

Ritz devoured

NEWS THAT the Ritz Hotel in London has been sold by Trafalgar House to the reclusive multimillionaire Barclay twins is likely to affect the breakfasting habits of Sir Charles Powell, Lady Thatcher's former private secretary.

When in town, Sir Charles tends to do a brisk business breakfast at the Ritz most mornings. And as a director of Jardine Matheson, which has a controlling interest in Trafalgar House, waiters fawned and he had the pick of the tables. "I am sure it will be an excellent place to continue to take breakfast," he said yesterday. "But whether I will be able to bag my corner table any more, we shall just have to wait and see."

● *On a sticky note, the pink Brighton rock offered at the Labour conference with "Labour 1995" stamped through it failed to sell. On Monday it was going for 30p a stick, but by Thursday afternoon it was being given away. Ominously for Tony Blair, it is actually made in Blackpool, where the Tories hold their jamboree next week.*

Majestic death

WE SHOULD thank our lucky stars that the Queen escaped serious injury when hit by a grouse as it plummeted out of the sky the other day. A bird full of shot can be lethal to those below.

Back in 1904 a hare broke cover during a shoot on a moor in Dumfries-shire when it was felled instantly. "It was hit by a hen pheasant shot from the sky and knocked stone dead," reports Tony Jackson, the venerable former editor of *Shooting Times*, who came across the incident while sifting through the well-thumbed pages of Hugh S. Gladstone's seminal 1923 almanac *Record Bags and Shooting Records*. "The velocity of a grouse falling is frightening, but fortunately Her Majesty is of hardy stock."

Hardy stock: the Queen survives her clash with a falling grouse

● *Samantha Bond, James Bond's new Moneypenny, who is performing with Dame Maggie Smith in* Three Tall Woman *at Wyndham's Theatre in the West End, has been sporting a fashionable Georgina von Etzdorf scarf (£200 a throw). The accessory, she explains, was a good luck present from Dame Maggie who must have refrained from proffering the more common thespian advice: "Break a leg."*

P·H·S

DAYS OF BLAIR

The Labour leader has no lack of fair weather friends

This time last week, it was by no means clear whether Tony Blair's second Labour Party conference would be a success. The omens were not good: a tense summer of grumbling, the leak of an embarrassing memo, a clutch of rebellious motions to be debated. And then there was the leader's speech: how could Mr Blair trump his triumph of last year when he announced his intention to replace Clause Four? Yet, as it has turned out, this has been the most peaceful, obedient and united occasion that most conference-goers can remember.

No votes went against the leadership. All the contentious issues — Liz Davies's candidature, grant-maintained schools, the retention of Trident, a referendum on electoral reform — were won by the modernisers. This partly reflects the grip that Mr Blair now exerts on his party; but it also illustrates both the discipline and the open-mindedness that are genuinely new to Labour.

Until this year, most delegates arrived at the seaside knowing exactly how they intended to vote on each resolution. Argument would not sway them, nor the prospect of damaging divisions. It was almost as if the newspaper journalists and the television cameras did not exist. When the debates took place, they were filled with rancour and, often, hatred. The main enemy, it seemed, was not the Tory party, but the opposite Labour faction. This has changed substantially. Even the education debate — on which most passion was expended — never descended to pure vitriol. Delegates' votes were swayed by David Blunkett's defence of the policy and by common sense.

Questions remain: is this new-found discipline merely to be a feature of the next 18 months and would Labour revert to internal strife in office? There are certainly those in the party who admit that they are behaving well in order to win power. They disagree fundamentally with Mr Blair and would want him to harden his policies were he to reach Downing Street. At the first sign of a mid-term slump in the polls, it is these who would be likely to man the picket lines when the inevitable public sector strike breaks out.

At Blackpool next week the Conservatives are sure to make much of this tendency. They will argue that the silent extremists form the bulk of the "new" Labour Party and that Mr Blair will quickly become a mere tool in their hands. It may be hard, however, to make this charge stick, particularly if it is posed with exaggerated rhetoric. In practice it would be hard for a claque of left-wing MPs to block much of the legislation of a Blair administration. They might complain that it was not radical enough but they would be reluctant to side with the Tories, except perhaps on constitutional reform. Mr Blair should be able to count on formal or informal support in Parliament from the Liberal Democrats. The power of the Left would be more to embarrass than to obstruct.

Mr Blair would presumably pick off some of the more able leftwingers, such as Peter Hain, and put them in relatively harmless junior ministerial posts. The remainder would be beyond the pale. But the call for discipline would not cease if Labour won power. For Mr Blair keeps telling his troops that he needs more than one term to make a difference. On Tuesday he reminded them: "I do not want a one-term Labour government that dazzles for a moment then ends in disillusion."

The critical task, then, for Mr Blair is similar to that of Margaret Thatcher in the late 1970s: to persuade the vast majority of his MPs that his project is their project too. He needs them to support him not simply because he is their best chance of winning power, but because they think that a Labour government led by him would make a difference. His speech on Tuesday went some way towards converting many of these people. But he will need powers of leadership as strong as hers to ensure that his party remains behind him in bad times as well as good.

A SOLICITOR AT THE OK CORRAL

The Law Society's president takes aim — and fires

Martin Mears, the president of the Law Society, loped into view with deadly intent and faced the hushed throng. He wore a staid suit, not a stetson hat; a tie, not knee-length cowboy boots. It was the Solicitors' Annual Conference in Birmingham, in the heart of Middle England. But just like Wyatt Earp or Doc Holliday picking off the bad boys of the Clanton gang, he shot from the hip at all them darn pesky critters.

Bang, and down went Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor; boom, and there was a hole between the eyes of the Equal Opportunities Commission; bang, bang, and the Commission for Racial Equality bit the dust, joined bloodily by tribunals and divorce mediators. The much-feared ire of Mears was not confined to things corporeal: concepts, too, were peppered with buckshot. Take that, you brutal creed, he said to Thatcherism, blaming it for reducing Britain to a society "made up of non-cohering particles" and "individuals elbowing, pushing and shoving each other in a free market . . ." And to think that our folk-wisdom has solicitors as a dull tribe.

But does Mr Mears contribute more than splendid entertainment? The answer, we are afraid, is one worthy of the best legal traditions: yes and no.

The Law Society's new president has promised to end the body's "extravagance" by cutting back on its staff and expenditure. That is a good idea, which paying solicitor-members should welcome: the society spends a total of £40 million a year and employs 700 people. The problem is that he has had a number of bad ideas as well — bad, that is, for the ordinary citizen and consumer of legal services.

Mr Mears is campaigning to make conveyancing more expensive, arguing unconvincingly that cheap work is bound to be shoddy work. And yesterday, he attacked the Lord Chancellor's plans for divorce law reform as "humbug". Of course there are problems with the proposed reforms, not the least of which is the effectiveness of the mediators whom Lord Mackay expects to save marriages. But Mr Mears's objections to mediators are the product of professional axe-grinding. Mediators, he fears, will reduce the role played in divorces by solicitors: *ipso facto*, mediators are wrong and their institution must be fought.

Yet it was this populist language of the closed shop which won Mr Mears his election to office three months ago. That idiom, by yesterday's display, is still thriving: Mr Mears attacked industrial tribunals for collaborating in a "racket" with the Equal Opportunities Commission and the Commission for Racial Equality, together ensuring that excessive awards were made in cases of sex or race discrimination.

The statistics, however, do not bear Mr Mears out; and if he has here, as some believe, the germ of a valid argument, he has ruined it at once with lurid language. A more measured approach, in this as well as in other debates, would surely serve better the concerns of a Law Society in flux.

AMBUSH IN THE CATHEDRAL

Priests are just as turbulent as newspaper people: official

The Venerable George Austin has never been an easy colleague. The Archdeacon of York's press cuttings and rent-a-pulpit texts probably exceed those of any other clergyman of the Church of England, except the Archbishop of Canterbury himself. So there may be smiles in liberal church circles about the coup that has ousted him from his seat in the General Synod.

There, as representative of the three archdeacons of the diocese of York, he was one of the longest-serving members of the Church's "parliament". But for the first time his two colleagues have refused to endorse his *ex officio* appointment to the General Synod. To make matters worse, they did not tell Mr Austin of their intention not to endorse him until the deadline had passed for his alternative chance of remaining on the synod — by standing as a candidate for election by all his fellow clergy.

Father John Broadhurst, chairman of Forward in Faith, the group that co-ordinates opposition to women priests, described the trick as something that might be expected in Fleet Street but not among men of the cloth. To which we would respectfully reply, "up to a point, father".

The Christian gospel is eirenic, at least in parts. But its earliest councils and synods were famous for swords of controversy — and they were not always metaphorical. From Becket and Wolsey to the "Red Dean" of Canterbury, the church in England has an honourable tradition of turbulent priests. Many of them outraged polite opinion far more than the Archdeacon of York's criticism of the sexual mores of the Royal Family or his denunciations of women priests and homosexuals. Many in consequence suffered worse fates than rebukes by their archbishops and non-election to their synods.

The archdeacon's supporters may be right to describe the treatment of their martyr as disgusting. But they are wrong to say that it is not the sort of behaviour to be expected from the Church. Trollope's Barsetshire chronicles appealed to their Victorian readers precisely by taking the lid off a placid cathedral establishment, and exposing the ambitious archdeacons, seething politics and generally worldly behaviour underneath. C. P. Snow, a biographer of Trollope, unfrocked the raw human nature under the scarlet gowns of Oxbridge, another establishment institution almost as venerable as the Church. And F. R. Leavis attacked Snow savagely for his utilitarian approach to scholarship, but also for letting out the secret that in their everyday behaviour academics are just as good and bad as ordinary mortals.

A synod without politics (and therefore dirty tricks) would be a congregation of saints — and accordingly has never yet assembled in this wicked world. On the Church of England's agenda are the eternal questions of life and death. It needs (and gets) its troublemakers as well as its committeemen and peacemakers, its professional martyrs as well as its managers. The Archdeacon of York may be temporarily off the General Synod — but by a ploy of which certain ecclesiastical politicians of all ages would surely be proud.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

New policies, new promises from Labour conference

From Mr Don Macdonald

Sir, In spite of caution expressed by Anatole Kaletsky ("Jobs aren't so cheap, Mr Brown", October 3), I welcome the Labour Party's proposals on employment for several reasons. I do believe they should ensure that a whole generation of young people is not going to be consigned to the economic dustbin. Recent studies have shown that, contrary to popular myth, the group most discriminated against on the ground of age are the young.

Labour's approach to subsidising private-sector employers has already been piloted in four regions, with some success, by two training and enterprise councils and two employment-service offices.

Unemployment may be as high in other European countries, but crime is rising faster in the UK. This is often the occupation of unemployed young males, those "low-eds" who are being kept out of the labour market by the global economic forces described by Professor Robin Marris (Business, October 3). Unless we subsidise "low-ed employment" there is a danger that the "global revival of brisk, stable, green growth" Marris advocates will pass us by.

Yours sincerely,
DON MACDONALD
(Chief Executive),
Foyer Federation for Youth,
91 Brick Lane, E1.
October 3.

From Mr E. J. Little

Sir, I am sure that the electorate of this country will be suitably impressed by Mr Blair's assurances of his strongly felt patriotism.

They might be more impressed if his party was less hell-bent on handing over sovereignty to the EC.

Yours etc,
EDWARD LITTLE,
The Brow,
Cricklade, Swindon, Wiltshire.
October 4.

From Mr David Dawson

Sir, To me the great deception in politics today is the suggestion that the Labour Party will be able to do anything significant to reverse the damage of nearly twenty years of Toryism without considerable spending — spending based on increased taxation and/or increased borrowing. We don't know yet whether Tony Blair really *would* tax and borrow more, despite what he now says.

No wonder the British electorate has become so cynical.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID DAWSON,
38 Lynton Road,
Hillside, Southport, Lancashire.
October 3.

From Mr George Oldham

Sir, Having decided to rejoin the Labour Party (or more accurately join Tony Blair's new Labour Party) I was stopped in my tracks by Gordon Brown's retrograde proposal (report, October 3) to cut VAT on fuel, a resource we should be seeking to conserve by every possible means (including tax). Have we really suffered all these years of government by bribery and greed to see more of the same, but delivered to another section of the community?

If the £480 million this proposal would cost was instead used to implement a national programme of insulation and tax incentives for energy conservation in new buildings, the result would be genuinely lower fuel bills, fewer carbon dioxide emissions and could mean the creation of up to 20,000 new jobs.

Yours in despair,
GEORGE OLDHAM,
George Oldham Associates Ltd,
Pinehurst, Allendale Road,
Hexham, Northumberland.
October 3.

From Mr Piers Eley

Sir, In his speech at the Labour Party conference, Roy Hattersley is reported (October 5) as having said: "for God's sake let us stop apologising about comprehensive schools".

Wouldn't it be wonderful if they did apologise?

Yours faithfully,
PIERS ELEY,
35 Montague Road,
Richmond, Surrey.
October 6.

From Mr Rodney Jameson

Sir, Lawyers, at least, will now understand why Mr Blair declined to set the minimum wage at £4.15. He expects us to work for nothing.

Yours,
RODNEY JAMESON,
6 Park Square, Leeds, West Yorkshire.
October 5.

Blair's superhighway

From Mr John Chittock

Sir, If Mr Blair wishes to take up the mantle of Harold Wilson's "white heat of technology" by adopting the superhighway (report, October 4), he should reflect first on how little notice politicians took of Lord (Louis) Mountbatten's speech to the British Kinematograph Society in 1969 (during a Labour administration):

> In 1945 . . . I called for a national electronics communications grid. It is really a very very simple idea. *I have been campaigning for this for 24 years* [my italics]. Now through the National Electronic Council I have been able to bring some pressure to bear and the General Post Office is now conducting an actual live experiment in the grid system in Washington . . . . County Durham . . . The object is to wire every house, every factory, every office when they are built or when a cable is laid — a multi-cord cable — so that they can each have one or more telephone lines, as many television channels as necessary, including I might say in passing pay-TV, which had such a successful experiment over here and only the shortsighted attitude of the Government prevented from going on.

Twenty-six years later a start on the infrastructure of a British superhighway has been possible thanks to investment by North American companies in cable television — the sector that Mr Blair could discourage if he allows BT to distribute entertainment.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN CHITTOCK
(Chairman),
Screen Digest,
37 Gower Street, WC1.
October 4.

Leadership qualities

From the Chaplain of Oriel College, Oxford

Sir, In his autobiography, *A Soldier's Way* (Books, September 21), General Colin Powell, who rose to the highest professional military rank in the US armed services, muses that, had his parents emigrated from London instead of New York, he might have made sergeant-major in a modest British regiment, but not British defence chief.

I fear that this is true, and it does not make my British heart proud.

May I therefore invite some representative of our military establishment to lift my spirits by persuading me that General Powell is wrong. And if this is impossible, would he instead explain what steps are now being taken to ensure that, in the future, those who bear the grave responsibility for the defence of our country and the care of our servicemen and women are chosen solely because of their talent for military leadership, and not because of the colour of their skin, their private incomes, or their public-school manners.

Yours faithfully,
NIGEL BIGGAR,
Oriel College, Oxford.
October 3.

London squares

From Councillor Robert Moreland

Sir, Perhaps I can shed some light on the issue of National Lottery funding for London squares (letters, September 21, October 3). In May of this year Westminster City Council commissioned a survey of all 77 London squares within the city, 61 of which are privately owned. The purpose of the survey was to identify a list of squares in need of priority attention.

As a first stage we applied for National Heritage lottery funds to assist with the reinstatement of traditional railings around three London squares — Talbot (W2), Vincent (SW1), and Montagu (W1) — all of which are in private ownership. The result is expected this month.

In the event of a successful bid, around 60 per cent of the funding required will come from the lottery fund, with the balance being met by the council, the private owners of the squares, the Heritage London Trust and by local sponsorship from businesses and residents.

In recent years the council has developed partnerships with the owners and managers of some of the 61 private squares in order to upgrade and improve these green spaces for the benefit of the local community. The pilot application for lottery funding is the latest example of this growing partnership.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT MORELAND
(Chairman of Environment),
Westminster City Council,
Westminster City Hall,
64 Victoria Street, SW1.
October 4.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Keeping the Navy at Greenwich

From Rear-Admiral Sir Morgan Morgan-Giles

Sir, As a former Admiral President of the Royal Naval College I am only one among many thousands of naval officers of successive generations who have derived enjoyment and inspiration from serving at Greenwich (letters, September 11, 14, 19; October 4).

Ever since its foundation (in 1873) it has been more than a college — it has been the "naval university". Instructional courses for all branches and all ranks have been located there — Senior Officers' War College, Joint Services Staff College, RN Staff College, various courses for junior officers, WRNS officers, seamen specialists, advanced engineering courses, etc.

It has been an educational centre of excellence, a civilising and broadening experience in the widest sense and an important cohesive influence between all the different branches of the service.

If the MoD, because of its smaller numbers, can no longer make full use of all the facilities of the college, why does it seem so anxious to abandon Greenwich altogether?

The scheme for multiple occupancy proposed lately by Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin seems an admirable solution. It is logical for the buildings to become the responsibility of the National Heritage ministry, and for the National Maritime Museum to become in effect the landlord.

Surely the MoD (Navy) could take a lease of such accommodation as is required. This would preserve the continuity of the Navy's connection with Greenwich, and possibly make unnecessary building elsewhere.

There is another point. Young men (and women) under training are entering a Navy which is inevitably ever more mechanised, more computerised and perhaps more prosaic. It must therefore be supremely important that their technical knowledge be balanced by the inspiration, the motivation, the "maritime awareness" and the reverence for the history of the Navy which is uniquely available at Greenwich.

Yours etc,
MORGAN GILES,
Frenchmoor Farm,
West Tytherley, Salisbury, Wiltshire.
October 5.

From the Assistant Press Secretary to HRH The Prince of Wales

Sir, May I correct the impression given by your report under the headline "Prince backs bid by maritime museum in Greenwich sell-off" (later editions, October 4).

The Prince of Wales is indeed taking a personal interest in the future of the Royal Naval College buildings, but it is not true, as implied by the report, that he is putting his weight behind any particular option. His concern is that there should be a broad-ranging debate of the alternatives, leading to the best possible long-term solution — a concern His Royal Highness knows to be shared by both the Secretaries of State for Defence and National Heritage.

Yours faithfully,
SANDY HENNEY,
St James's Palace, SW1.
October 4.

From Mr Tom Jago

Sir, The Church of England is just as short of money as the Government, perhaps more so. It owns a number of impressive old buildings, expensive to run and with considerable tourist potential. Should the commissioners get in touch with Messrs Knight, Frank & Rutley?

Yours faithfully,
T. E. JAGO,
31 Rivermead Court, SW6.
October 6.

Surgery for face pain

From the Reverend Dr John Bradshaw

Sir, I was glad to read your report (September 28) of the use of the Internet to find a microsurgeon in Pittsburgh for Matthew Fell, aged nine, who suffers from pressure on a nerve which causes facial pain.

I suffered from trigeminal neuralgia for eight years from the age of 62 until May 1994. Then, in Frenchay Hospital, Bristol, the trigeminal nerve and the artery were moved apart and separated with a Teflon sling. This delicate procedure, deep inside my head, proved completely successful.

As a computer buff I was pleased to read good news about the Internet; yet I'm surprised it did not reveal that the Department of Neurosurgery in Bristol performs an operation which I take to be that offered to Matthew. I was the 250th patient to benefit from the procedure.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BRADSHAW,
78 Westcliff Park Drive,
Dawlish, Devon.
October 1.

New cars for old

From Mrs Joan Bingley

Sir, Your article, "Britain's endless appetite for Bangers" (Car 95, September 30), referred to a proposal to offer incentives to scrap old cars and replace them with new ones.

This has been costed in financial terms and shown to be broadly neutral. The justification is that new cars produce less environmental damage for a given distance travelled than "old bangers".

May one ask what the true net environmental cost would be? In order to make a properly informed decision about the proposal, this should take into account not only the effects of running the cars, but also the assembly and shipping of the new car, the manufacture of the components, of the raw materials and their extraction, less any net benefit from recycling parts of the scrapped car.

Yours faithfully,
JOAN BINGLEY
(Chartered secretary),
Eaton Farm,
Miles Lane, Cobham, Surrey.
October 2.

Learning to live with metrication

From Mr Paul F. Day

Sir, Here we go again. This time it's metrication of weights and measures. I remember when we decimalised the currency, the end-of-the-world brigade had a field day. The fact is that pounds, shillings, pence and farthings were so complicated that they were taught as a subject in school. Now, kids just pick up the monetary system from everyday life and they will do the same with weights and measures. Isn't that a lot better?

Why will it be a problem to buy a pack or can that no longer bears an Imperial measure? They've all been labelled with both systems for years. If nobody noticed, they clearly don't usually look at the label anyway. We know the size we want by experience.

Ah, but now I can't ask for half a pound of cheese. Of course I can, and there will be millions of people who will. The assistants will smile politely and say, "Certainly, just over 220 grams okay?", and in time even granny will ask for cheese in grams or half kilos in just the way she got to grips with new pence.

Whingeing about destroying our culture and traditional ways of life will not help drag our nation out of its near-Third World status: we need to compete on level terms. The Europeans are in *our* high street now.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL F. DAY,
4 Holme Park,
Burley in Wharfedale,
Ilkley, West Yorkshire.
October 4.

From Mr C. R. Bullen

Sir, You report (October 2) that French and German television crews viewed yesterday's demonstration against metrication by United Kingdom Independence Party members, myself included, as "a classic case of British Luddism".

No intelligent and reasonable person would resist necessary or beneficial change, but the ending of Imperial measures is neither. It is rather a symptom of the arrogant disregard for the wishes of the people shown by those desperate to submerge the UK into a European superstate, and is a precursor of changes which will have even greater impact, such as the imposition of VAT on food and the eventual strangulation of our economy by a common currency.

Yours faithfully,
C. R. BULLEN
(Membership Secretary, United Kingdom Independence Party),
119 Douglas Road, Tonbridge, Kent.
October 2.

From Mr R. F. Hall

Sir, The new metrication regulations came into force on October 1. It would be interesting to know if these regulations are applicable only to the trading of goods. Are services, such as journalism, exempt in law?

I raise the question having noted that in a report and diagram of October 3, "Warhead linked to new submarines", you give the range of British and French submarines in miles, the lengths, widths and diameters in feet, and weights in kilos and kilotonnes.

If UK technical products are designed, produced and controlled in metric units why should the media convert them to Imperial?

Yours faithfully,
R. F. HALL,
Keisley House, Dufton,
Appleby-in-Westmorland, Cumbria.
October 4.

Sauce for gander

From Mr Mike Aldwin

Sir, So Sir Brian Pitman, the chief executive, is in favour of a two-tier pay structure for Lloyds Bank staff working in different parts of the country (Business News, later editions, October 6). Can we expect the same consideration, if we bank with Lloyds, on bank charges, and what about mortgages?

Yours faithfully,
MIKE ALDWIN,
562 Wokingham Road,
Earley, Berkshire.

Run for cover?

From Mr B. W. Crossan

Sir, So the Lloyd's building in the City is rusting away (report, October 6). I trust the builders have good product liability insurance cover.

Yours faithfully,
B. W. CROSSAN,
66 Jerrard Drive,
Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.
October 6.

Weekend Money letters, page 39

Time travel

From Mr Alan Wilkinson

Sir, Mr Alan Bird (letter, October 5) suggested killing Hitler, as a positive application of time travel. Personally I would have thought that the early disposal of Adam and Eve would solve a few problems.

Yours environmentally,
A. WILKINSON,
136a Tanfield Avenue, NW2.
October 6.

COURT CIRCULAR

BALMORAL CASTLE
October 6: By Command of The Queen, Vice-Admiral Sir James Weatherall (Marshal of the Diplomatic Corps) called upon Her Excellency Señora Celia de Cabañas at 107 Bryanston Court, George Street, London W1, this morning in order to bid farewell to Her Excellency upon relinquishing her appointment as Ambassador from the Republic of Honduras to the Court of St James's.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
October 6: The Prince of Wales this morning arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, from Oman.

Mr Stephen Lamport and Mr Allan Percival were in attendance.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a performance of *Prince Igor* by the Kirov Opera at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
October 6: The Duchess of Kent, Patron, Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, this evening attended an auction in aid of the Norfolk Macmillan Janey Napier Appeal, Raynham, Fakenham, Norfolk, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Norfolk (Mr Timothy Colman).

Fiona, Lady Astor of Hever was in attendance.

Queen's Counsel

Advocates holding, and entitled to exercise, full rights of audience in the High Court or the Crown Court and who wish to be considered for appointment as Queen's Counsel are reminded that the closing date for applications is Monday, October 16. Applications received after noon on that date will not be considered. Application forms, together with Notes for Guidance for applicants, can be obtained from David Stobie, Lord Chancellor's Department, Room 6.33, Southside, 105 Victoria Street, London SW1E 6QT (telephone 0171 210 1607 or 0171 210 1714).

Latest wills

Sir Edward Walters **Senior**, of Brenchley, Kent, Director-General of the British Iron and Steel Federation 1962-66, left estate valued at £1,856,690 net.

Mr Benjamin Arthur **Flemyng**, of Brighton, Robert Flemyng, the actor, left £308,538 net.

Michael Brynmor **Summerskill**, of London N6, barrister and marine insurer, left £423,513 net.

Mrs Doris Ena **Wilkinson**, of Thirsk, North Yorkshire, formerly of Landmoth Hall, Kirby Sigston, left £1,180,530 net. After various bequests she left the residue to be divided equally between ten local charities.

Jenifer Patricia Evelyn, **Lady Du Cann**, of London SW1, late of Wellington, Somerset, former president of the Motor Neurone Association, wife of Sir Edward Du Cann, former Conservative MP for Taunton, and widow of Sir Robert G. Cooke, former Conservative MP for Bristol West, left £2,507,814 net.

Royal engagements

Tomorrow
Princess Alexandra will attend a performance of Berlioz's *Romeo and Juliette* by the Monteverdi Choir and Orchestra at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, at 6.30.

Durham University

Former students of the University of Durham (including King's, Armstrong and Teacher Training Colleges) should have received the autumn edition of *Durham First* the University of Durham's magazine. Anyone who has not done so is invited to contact The Development Office, Old Shire Hall, Durham, DH1 3HP, for dispatch of a copy (or tel: 0191 374 4682).

Hurstpierpoint College

The St Etheldreda Sung Eucharist to be held at Hurstpierpoint College on Sunday, October 15, will be at 10.15am not 11.00am as previously announced.

British Veterinary Association

Mr Bob Stevenson, of Usk, Gwent, has been elected President of the British Veterinary Association for 1995-96 and Baroness Trumpington an honorary member. Professor Leslie Vaughan, of Harpenden, Hertfordshire, has been awarded the association's Dalrymple-Champneys Cup and Medal.

Appointments

Mr Andre Dhondt to be chairman of council of the Textile Institute.

Anniversaries

Today
BIRTH: William Laud, Archbishop of Canterbury 1633-45, Reading, 1573; John Marston, dramatist, Wardington, Oxfordshire, 1576; Sir Ralph Abercromby, general, Menstrie, Clackmannanshire, 1734; Caroline Anne Southey, poet, Lymington, Hampshire, 1786; Niels Bohr, atomic physicist, Nobel laureate 1922, Copenhagen, 1885.

DEATHS: Giovanni Guarini, poet, Venice, 1612; Antonio Sacchini, composer, Paris, 1786; Thomas Reid, philosopher, Glasgow, 1796; Edgar Allan Poe, writer, Baltimore, Maryland, 1849; Oliver Wendell Holmes, physician and writer, Boston, Massachusetts, 1894; Sir Hubert Parry, composer, Rustington, Sussex, 1918; Alfred Deakin, Prime Minister of Australia 1903-04, 1905-08 and 1909-10, Melbourne, 1919; Marie Lloyd, music hall singer, London, 1922.

The bell was salvaged from the *Lutine*, which sank off the coast of Holland, 1799. It was later presented to Lloyd's of London.

The far side of the moon was photographed for the first time and pictures relayed back to earth by Russia's *Lunik III*, 1959.

Tomorrow
BIRTHS: Heinrich Schütz, composer, Köstritz, Germany, 1585; John Hoadly, poet and dramatist, London, 1711; Montague Lowry-Corry, 1st Baron Rowton, politician and founder of the Rowton Houses, London, 1838; John Cowper Powys, novelist, Shirley, Derbyshire, 1872; Eddie Rickenbacker, American fighter pilot in First World War, Columbus, Ohio, 1890; Ellen Wilkinson, trade unionist and politician, Manchester, 1891; Juan Peron, President of Argentina 1946-55 and 1973-74, Buenos Aires, 1895; Piotr Jaroszewicz, Prime Minister of Poland 1970-80, Nieswiez, 1909.

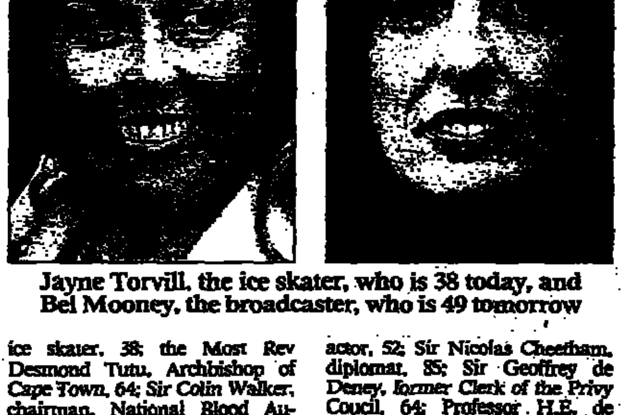
DEATHS: Henry Fielding, novelist, Lisbon, 1754; Pierre Fournier, engraver and type founder, Paris, 1768; Vittorio Alfieri, poet, Florence, 1803; Franklin Pierce, 14th American President 1853-57, Concord, New Hampshire, 1869; Kathleen Ferrier, contralto, London, 1953; Clement Attlee, 1st Earl Attlee, Prime Minister 1945-51, London, 1967.

St Mark's Cathedral was consecrated, Venice, 1085.

The Great Fire of Chicago began, 1871.

Weekend birthdays

Today
Miss Jenny Abramsky, controller BBC Radio 5 Live, 49; Sir Timothy Ackroyd, actor, 37; Mr Christopher Booker, author, 58; Sir Colin Chandler, aviation expert, 56; Mr Shura Cherkassky, pianist, 84; Mr Joseph Cooper, pianist and broadcaster, 83; Sir Zelman Cowen, QC, former Provost, Oriel College, Oxford, 76; Sir Andrew Derbyshire, architect, 72; Professor Harold Dexter, organist, 75; Air Chief Marshal Sir Peter Fletcher, 79; Dr Mark Girouard, architectural historian, 64; Lord Glenarthur, 51; Mr B.M.S. Hoban, former Head Master, Harrow School, 74; Mr Terence Hodgkinson, former director, Wallace Collection, 82; Mr Clive James, writer and broadcaster, 56; Mr Thomas Keneally, author, 60; Mr George Kynoch, MP, 49; Lieutenant-General Sir Derek Lang, 82; Miss Yaltah Menuhin, pianist, 74; Mr R.J. Perry, Governor, Gartree Prison, 48; Sir John Stocker, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 77; Major-General Julian Thompson, 61; Miss Jayne Torvill, ice skater, 38; the Most Rev Desmond Tutu, Archbishop of Cape Town, 64; Sir Colin Walker, chairman, National Blood Authority, 61; Mr Yo Yo Ma, cellist, 40.


Jayne Torvill, the ice skater, who is 38 today, and Bel Mooney, the broadcaster, who is 49 tomorrow

Tomorrow
The Marquess of Anglesey, 73; Miss Betty Boothroyd, MP, Speaker of the House of Commons, 66; Viscount Caldecote, 78; Professor Garth Chapman, zoologist, 78; Mr Chevy Chase, actor, 52; Sir Nicolas Cheetham, diplomat, 85; Sir Geoffrey de Deney, former Clerk of the Privy Coucil, 64; Professor H.E. de Wardener, nephrologist, 80; Sir Edward Eveleigh, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 78; Viscount Exmouth, 55; His Honour Edgar Fay, QC, 87; Sir Michael Fox, former Lord Justice of Appeal, 74; Mr Brandon Gough, former chairman and joint senior partner, Coopers and Lybrand, 58; Mr Milner Gray, founder partner, Design Research Unit, 96; Mr John Hardman, former chairman, Asda, 56; Professor Sir Richard Harrison, anatomist, 75; Sir Geoffrey Jellicoe, architect, 95; Mr Alasdair Milne, former Director-General, BBC, 65; Dr César Milstein, CH, biochemist, 68; Miss Bel Mooney, writer and broadcaster, 49; Mr R.K. Morris, director, Council for British Archaeology, 48; Sir Mark Oliphant, former governor, South Australia, 94; Dame Merle Park, director, Royal Ballet School, 58; the Very Rev J.M.K. Paterson, former Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 73; the Hon Sir Peter Ramsbotham, diplomat, 76; Mr Ray Reardon, snooker player, 63; Lord Romsey, 48; M Albert Roux, chef and restaurateur, 60; Mr Robert Saxton, composer, 42; Sir Robert Scholey, former chairman, British Steel, 74; Mr D.R.W. Silk, chairman, Test and County Cricket Board, 64; Mr Nigel Spearing, MP, 65; Mr S.G.C. Stoker, Principal, St Cuthbert's Society, Durham University, 59; Mr Godfrey Talbot, broadcaster, 87; Sir Ray Tindle, chairman, Tindle Newspapers, 69; Miss Sigourney Weaver, actress, 46; Mr Peter Wood, theatre and television director, 67.

Service luncheon

The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment
The Queen's Royal Surrey Regiment Officers' Club held a ladies luncheon at Clandon Park, Surrey, yesterday. Brigadier R.W. Acworth presided.

Reception

HM Government
Mr Raymond Robertson, Minister for Education, Housing and Fisheries at the Scottish Office, was the host at a reception given by Her Majesty's Government in Edinburgh Castle yesterday for representatives of District Salmon Fishery Boards.

Service dinners

Navigating and Direction Officers' Association
Admiral of the Fleet Lord Lewin, KG, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Officers of the Navigating and Direction branch of the Royal Navy held last night in the wardroom of *HMS Dryad*. Admiral Sir Jock Slater presided. Captain J.W.H. Bennet also spoke. Among those present were:

Admiral Sir Anthony Griffin, Vice-Admirals Sir Peter Buchanan, Sir Robert Gerken, Sir John Martin, Sir John Webster, Rear-Admiral D. Eckersley-Maslin and Captain J. Lippiett, Captain of *HMS Dryad*.

Royal Hampshire Regiment
Lieutenant-Colonel H.D.H. Keatinge presided at the annual dinner of the Royal Hampshire Regiment Officers' Association held last night at Serle's House, Winchester. Brigadier R.G. Long was present

Dinners

Company of Weavers, Fullers and Shearmen
Major J.D. Cathcart, Master of the Company of Weavers, Fullers and Shearmen, with the wardens and court of assistants, presided at a dinner held last night at Tuckers Hall, Exeter, in honour of the Mayor of Exeter and Mr Clifford Dennis, Master of the Woolmen's Company.

Midland and Oxford Circuit
Mr Richard Wakerley, QC, Leader of the Midland and Oxford Circuit, presided at a bar mess dinner held last night at Gray's Inn to mark the appointments of Lord Justice Otton to the Court of Appeal and Mr Justice Bennett and Mr Justice Smedley to the High Court Bench.

Engineers' Company
The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, received the guests at the annual dinner of the Engineers' Company held at Mansion House last night. Mr Lawrence Turner, Master, presided, assisted by Professor Sir Frederick Crawford, Dr J.C. Smith and Dr D.S. Mitchell, Wardens. The Lord Mayor, Sir Ralph Robins and Sir Patrick Cormack, MP, were the speakers. Among others present were:

Professor Sir Ronald Mason, Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Alcock, Major-General A.C. Birtwistle, the Master and Mistress Cutler in Hallamshire, Masters of the Loriners', Turners' and Scientific Instrument Makers' Companies and Master of the Company of Water Conservators.

Installation

Central Lancashire University
Sir Francis Kennedy was installed yesterday at Preston parish church as the first Chancellor of the University of Central Lancashire.

Company of World Traders

Mr Bryan Montgomery presided at a Banquet on Wednesday evening at Butchers' Hall following his installation as Master at the preceding Court of Assistants. Mr Jim G. Davis, CBE, took office as Senior Warden and Mr David Watt as Junior Warden. Among the guests were:

Sir Brian Jenkins, GBE, and Masters of the Butchers' Company, the Upholders' Company, the Tylers' and Bricklayers' Company, the Chartered Architects' Company and Warden of the Goldsmiths' Company and their ladies along with members of the Company and their guests.

University news

University College London
Conferment of title
Professors
Dr M Modell, primary health care (formerly senior lecturer)
Dr R Harris, remote sensing (formerly reader in anthropology)
Reader
Dr I McIlwaine, classification and indexing (formerly senior lecturer)
Ramsay Memorial Fellowships 1995-97
Dr Gregory Scholes, co-sponsored with the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, will carry out research at Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, and Dr Darren Hamilton, co-sponsored with the Defence Research Agency, will carry out research at Cranfield University.

Bristol
Professor Michiel Van den Berg, Professor of Mathematics, Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh, has been elected to the Chair in Pure Mathematics.

Liverpool
Professorial appointments
Peter Ainsworth, senior lecturer in French studies at the University of Manchester, to chair of French.
Gehan Amaratunga, lecturer in engineering at the University of Cambridge, to a chair of electrical engineering.
John Bligh, senior lecturer (clinical) in the medical education unit at the University of Liverpool, to the chair of primary education.
Peter Calverley, consultant physician, Aintree hospitals, and clinical lecturer, University of Liverpool, to the chair of rehabilitation medicine.
Brian Doyle, senior lecturer in law in the Department of Business and Management Studies at the University of Salford, to a chair of law.
David Dunster, professor and head of the division of architecture, South Bank University, to the Roscoe Chair of Architecture.
Simon Frostick, senior lecturer in orthopaedic and accident surgery, University of Nottingham, to the chair of orthopaedics.
John Mottershead, professor and head of department of mechanical engineering, University of Wales, Swansea, and previously senior lecturer in mechanical engineering, University of Liverpool, to the Alexander Elder Chair of Applied Mechanics.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr R.A. Denton and Miss T. Beeker
The engagement is announced between Richard, elder son of Mr and Mrs A.L. Denton, of The Hague, The Netherlands, and Tinie, daughter of Mr and Mrs M.H. Beeker-Lenders, of Grubbenvorst, The Netherlands.

Mr G. McIntosh and Miss C. Darvell
The engagement is announced between Glenn, second son of Mr and Mrs Bruce McIntosh, of Christchurch, New Zealand, and Charlotte, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs John Darvell, of Shrewsbury, Shropshire.

Mr H.C. Mercer and Miss I. Corbeel
The engagement is announced between Hugh, son of Mr and Mrs Keith Mercer, of Chaddesley Corbett, Worcestershire, and Isabelle, daughter of Dr and Mrs Louis Corbeel, of Rosières St André, Belgium.

Mr S.A. Scotting and Miss C.H. Machin
The engagement is announced between Simon, son of Mr and Mrs John Scotting, of Eaton, Norwich, and Clare, daughter of Mr Trevor Machin, of Hertford, and Mrs Jill Machin, of Milverton, Somerset.

Mr K.H. McLay and Dr C.K.A. Pointon
The engagement is announced between Kenneth Hugh, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Hugh Fleming McLay, of Bo'ness, West Lothian, and Clare Kerry Alice, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Richard Pointon, of Ightham, Kent.

Mr R.D. Reoch and Miss G.M. Gill
The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr David Reoch, of South Kensington, London, and Mrs Davina Reoch, of Goudhurst, Kent, and Georgina Mary, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Julian Gill, of Tiverton, Devon.

Mr C.H. Stanton and Miss C.N. Barnard
The engagement is announced between Charles Henry, youngest son of Mr and Mrs W.J.L. Stanton, of Fundo Manzun, General Lopez, Chile, and Cheryl Nicola, daughter of Mr and Mrs T.A. Barnard, of Hassocks, Sussex.

Lieutenant S. Wetherell and 2nd Lieutenant J.S. Elliott
The engagement is announced between Simon Wetherell, The Parachute Regiment, elder son of Mr and Mrs Graham Wetherell, of Knaresborough, Yorkshire, and Jackie Elliott, The Royal Logistics Corps, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Richard Elliott, of Wokingham, Berkshire.

Church services tomorrow

Services for the Eighteenth Sunday after Trinity include:

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP; 9.15 HC; 11 the Judges' Service, Rt Rev R Harries; 4 Choral Euch; 5 EP.

BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 Choral M; 10.30 Euch; 4 Choral E.

BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: College Green 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Choral Euch, Expandi Manus Meas (Lassus), Missa Brevis (Carter), Ave verum (Mozart), Canon A Redfern; 3.30 Choral E, Dixit Dominus (Tavares), Magnificat octavi toni (Cardoso), Salve Regina (Melgas), Canon J Simpson.

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M, V Rev M Mayne; 11 S Euch, Schubert in G, Ave verum (Mozart); 3.15 E, Responses (Shephard), St Paul's Service (Howells), Wenn ein Starker Gewappneter (Brahms).

CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, S Euch, Messe Solennelle (Langlais), Postlude (Vierne), The Bishop of Penrith; 3 E, Responses (Ebdon), Brewerin D, Thou judge of quick and dead (Wesley), Allabreve in D (Bach), the Bishop.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch, Canon B Thompson; 11.15 Justice Service, Beati quorum (Stanford), Responses (Ayleward), Stanford in C, For the beauty of the earth (Rutter), A Gaelic Blessing (Rutter), the Lord Bishop; 6 Choral E, Responses (Ayleward), Coventry Service (Whettam), And I saw a new heaven (Bainton), the Provost.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8 HC; 10 Choral M, Benjamin in Britten in C, Canon E Binks; 11.30 Choral Euch, Jesu joy of man's desiring (Bach), Ireland in C; 2.30 Baptism; 3.30 Choral E, Responses (Reading), Walmisley in D minor, O give thanks (Wesley), Amen (Naylor); 6.30 ES, Canon O Conway.

CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, Vaughan Williams in G, Responses (Ayleward), Ireland in C, O how amiable are thy dwellings (Weelkes), Rt Rev E Knapp-Fisher; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley), Terribilis est locus iste (Malcolm), Ven H Glaisyer; 3.30 E, Rubbra in A flat, Responses (Ayleward), I have surely built thee a house (Boyce).

CLIFTON CATHEDRAL: 8 M; 9.30 Family M; 11 SM, Missa de Feria (Mendes), O quam gloriosum (Victoria); [illegible]

COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis (Britten), [illegible], V Rev J Petty; [illegible]

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M, [illegible]; 3.30 E, [illegible]

ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC; 10.30 S Euch, South African Mass (Bertalot), Jesus Christ the apple tree (Poston); 4 Harvest songs of Praise.

EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M; 10 S Euch, O Holy Spirit, Lord of grace (Tye), Mass for 5 voices (Byrd), Ave verum corpus (Byrd), the Dean; 3 E, responses (Rose), Sumsion in G, A Hymn to the Mother of God (Tavener); 7 Harvest Thanksgiving, Praise him (Bach), Rev C Robins.

LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Thanksgiving Serivce, Stanford in B flat, Achieved is the glorious work (Haydn), Praise O praise our God and King (How), the Treasurer; 3 Euch, farewell to Rt Rev G Ashby, Setting How & Lourdes; 6.30 Young Farmers' Harvest Festival, the Provost.

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Stanford in B flat, Coll Reg (Howells), let all mortal flesh (Bairstow), Pastor N Lixenfeld; 3.30 E, Limburg & Ste Foy les Lyon, Responses (Shephard), Dyson in D.

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L; 8, 12.30 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Stanford in C & F, Ave Maria (Elgar), Rev B Hoare; 11.15 M, Responses (Smith), Alleluia (Mawby), the Dean; 3.45 E, Coll (Wood), Responses (Smith), Locus iste (Bruckner).

LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC; 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis (Guest), Canon Dr J Elford; 3 Choral E, Coll Reg (Howells), Rev G Davies; 4 HC.

LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8, 12.15 H Euch, the Dean; 9 Euch, Rev J Redvers Harris; 11 Special Service, Give unto the Lord (Elgar), Very Rev Dr A MacWilliam; 3.30 Choral E, Lobet den Hern (Bach); 6.30 E, Rev Boon-Hor Khoo.

NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC, the Provost; 9.30 S Euch, To my humble supplication (Jacob), The Provost; 6 Choral E, A prayer of King Henry VI (Henry Ley), Responses (Clucas), Dyson in D, Greater Love (Ireland).

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 MP; 9.30 C; 11 Euch, St Nicholas Mass (Haydn), Thou visitest the earth (Greene), Canon J Sinclair; 2 Housebound Euch; 6.30 E, The Provost.

SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Choral Euch, Jackson in G, Ego flos campi (Clemens non Papa), Tantum ergo [illegible]

SOUTHWELL CATHEDRAL: [illegible]

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M, the Treasurer; 10 S Euch, O taste and see (Vaughan Williams), Coll Reg (Howells), Ave verum corpus (Elgar), Canon T Fuller; 6 E, Responses (Ayleward), Stanford in C, Wash me throughly (Wesley), the Dean.

WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9, 12, 5.30, 7 M; 10.30 SM, Missa brevis (Mozart), Cantate Domino (Monteverdi), O salutaris histoa (Tallis), Finale from Sonata IV (Mendelssohn); 10 MP; 3.30 V&B, Magnificat quarti toni (Palestrina), Almighty and everlasting God (Gibbons), Praeludium in E (Lubeck).

WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, the Coronation Mass (Mozart), Rev P Walker; 11.30 M, Ireland in F, My soul there is a country (Parry); 3 E, Third Service (Byrd), The Lord is my shepherd (Stanford), Ven J Burgess.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC; 10 M, Britten in C, Teach me O Lord (Byrd), Canon A Harvey; 11.15 Euch, Missa Brevis/The Lord is my shepherd (Berkeley), Tout puissant (Poulenc), Rev B Fenton; 3 E, Dyson in D, Expectans expectavi (Wood), Rev J Goodall; 6.30 ES, Rev P Chester.

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10.30 M, Te Deum in B flat (Stanford), Turn back O man (Holst), Rt Rev D Jenkins; 11.30 Euch, mass for 4 voices/Quotiescunque manducabitis (Byrd); 3.30 E, St Paul's service (Howells), Thou wilt keep him (Wesley), the Archdeacon

YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Mass for 5 voices (Byrd), Canon P Ferguson; 11.30 M, Responses (Smith), Benedicite in G (Jackonson), How lovely are the messengers (Mendelssohn), Rt Rev G Bates; 4 E, Jesus College Service (Mathias), Lobet den Herren (Bach), Rev Canon L Stanbridge.

ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; 11 Choral M, Responses (Smith), Britten in C, My beloved spake (Hadley).

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, Southwark: 8, 10 (Family), 6 LM; 11.30 SM, Mozart KV49, Ave verum (Gyeantey), canon J Pannett; 2 Chanaian Mass, Fr J Enin.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, London: 8 HC; 8.45 M; 11 S Euch, Mass in C (Mozart), Stanford in C, Locus iste (Bruckner), V George Cassidy; 3.15 E, Responses (Gibbons & Barnard), Rubbra in A flat, Evening Hymn (Leighton), Rev M Kettle.

ALL SAINTS, Margaret Street, W1: [illegible]

ALL SOULS, Langham Place, W1: [illegible]

THE ASSUMPTION, Warwick Street, W1: [illegible]

CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8, 12.15 HC; 10 Children; 11 M, Blessed be the God and Father of mankind (Wesley), Rev B White; 6 E, Rev P Elvy.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE CHURCH, Curzon St, W1: 11 Sunday service; 11 Sunday School.

CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Covent Garden, WC2: 11.15, Miss H Thomson; 6.30, Rev S Hood.

FARM STREET, W1: 7.30, 8.30, 10, 12.15, 4.15, 6.15 LM; 11 HM.

HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, Brompton Road, SW7: 9 ASB HC, Mr T Peek; 11 Informal Service, Mr T Stilwell; 5, 7.30 Informal, Rev S Downham.

THE ORATORY, Brompton Road, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass, 12.30, 4.30, 7; 3.30 V & B.

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH: Iverna Gdns, W8: 11 MP, Archbishop Y Gizirian.

WESLEY'S CHAPEL, City Road, EC2: 9.45 HC; 11 MS, Viscount Tonypandy.

WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist), SW1: 11, 6.30, Rev Dr P Graves.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), Gresham St, EC2: 11 Choral HC, Rev P Schmiege; 7 Lutheran Choral V, Brian Fisher.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT, Smithfield, EC1: 9 HC; 11 M, Short Service (Weelkes), Sicut cervus (Palestrina), the Rector; 6.30 E, Short Service (Weelkes), Sitivit anima mea (Palestrina), the Rector.

ST BRIDE'S, Fleet Street, EC4: 11 Choral M & Euch, Jubilate (Noble), Missa Brevis (Walton), Ave verum (Mawby), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Choral E, Responses (Sumsion), Magnificat (Plainsong), German Magnificat (Schutz), Canon J Oates.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, Pont Street, SW1: 11 SM, Missa bella amfitrit (Lassus), O sacrum convivium/Chromatic Fantasia (Sweelinck).

ST GEORGE'S, Hanover Square, W1: 8.30 HC; 11 S Euch, Mozart in C, Allelujah (Bach), Bishop of Fulham.

ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30 S Euch, John Paul, Rector.

ST JAMES'S, Sussex Gardens, W2: 8 Euch; [illegible]

ST MARK'S, Regent's Park Rd, NW1: [illegible]

Christus factus est (Bruckner), Sr H Markey.

ST MARGARET'S, Westminster, SW1: 11 S Euch, Missa brevis (Walton), Salvator mundi (Sheppard), Rev Dr P Bradshaw.

ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC; 9.45 S Euch, Laudes Gloria (Stringer), Salvator Mundi (Tallis), Ave verum (Mozart), Rev B Schunemann; 11.30 Visitors, Responses (Reading), Short Service (Gibbons), Expectans Expectavi (Wood), the Vicar; 2.45 Chinese, Rev G Lee; 5 Choral E, Responses (Wills), Dyson in F, I waited for the Lord (Mendelssohn); 6.30 ES, Rev B Schunemann.

ST MARY'S, Bourne Street, SW1: 9, 10, 7 LM; 11 HM, Missa III (Monteverdi), Canon P Pilkington; 6 E&B.

ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Missa vidi speciosam (Victoria), Let all mortal flesh keep silence (Bairstow), Rev J Slater; 6 E, [illegible]

ST MICHAEL'S, Cornhill, EC3: 11 8&9; 11 S Euch, I was glad (Parry), Laudate dominum/Ave verum (Mozart), Rt Rev Lord Runcie.

ST PAUL'S, Wilton Place, SW1: 8.15 HC; 10 Euch; 11 S Euch, Communion in G (Stanford), Sing joyfully (Byrd), Fantasia in G (Bach), Fr A Childwick.

ST STEPHEN'S, Gloucester Road, SW7: 8, 9 LM; 11 SM, Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestrina), Ego sum panis vivus (Esquivel), O Magnum Mysterium (Victoria), Canon C Colven.

CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA, Tower of London: 9.15 HC; 11 M & Sermon, Responses (Radcliffe), Short Service (Gibbons), Sing joyfully (Mundy), Canon J G M W Murphy.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP; I was glad (Parry), Ven P Ashford.

CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Palace: 8.30 HC; 11 M, Ireland in C, Greater love (Ireland); 3.30 E, Miserere mei (Byrd), Coll Reg (Howells), Hear my prayer (Mendelssohn).

GROSVENOR CHAPEL, South Audley Street, W1: 11 S Euch, Western Wind Mass (Taverner), O sacrum convivium (Tallis), Rev S Hobbs.

QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY, WC2: [illegible]

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: [illegible]

GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SW1: [illegible]

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL, Greenwich: [illegible]

BMDS: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

Live as those who are free; not however as though your freedom provided a cloak for wrongdoing, but as slaves in God's service.
1 Peter 2 : 16 (REB).

BIRTHS
ASHMORE - On October 2nd, [illegible]
DAVIS - On September 27th, [illegible]
FEROZE - [illegible]
FREUD - [illegible]
GOLDING - [illegible]
HILL - [illegible]
KINGHAM - [illegible]
SECCOMBE - [illegible]
SEVERN - [illegible]
STADDON - [illegible]

BIRTHS
THILMANY - On October 2nd at The Portland Hospital, to Maryam (née Maswood) and Michael, a son, Alexander.

MARRIAGES
BINNS:HADDOCK - [illegible]

DEATHS
BAKER - [illegible]

DEATHS
BELL - [illegible]
BERRY - [illegible]
BRAY - [illegible]
CHARITY - [illegible]
BEAUMONT - [illegible]

DEATHS
DORRINGTON - [illegible]
FORBES - [illegible]
GOEDHUIS - [illegible]

DEATHS
HARRIS - [illegible]
LI - [illegible]
MILLER-SMITH - [illegible]
PRICE - [illegible]

DEATHS
SMEE - [illegible]
SMITH - [illegible]
SYMONDS - [illegible]
VYVYAN - [illegible]
WISE - [illegible]

MEMORIAL SERVICES
[illegible]

IN MEMORIAM - PRIVATE
WATSON - [illegible]

THANKSGIVING SERVICES
ANDERSON - [illegible]

PLATINUM ANNIVERSARIES
[illegible]

FLATSHARE
[illegible]

TICKETS FOR SALE
TICKETS FOR SALE
[illegible]

GIFTS
[illegible]

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS
[illegible]

WANTED
[illegible]

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS
EXPERIENCED CORDON BLEU/TANTE MARIE
[illegible]

هكذا من الأصل

OBITUARIES

DAVID DILWYN JOHN

David Dilwyn John, CBE, former Director of the National Museum of Wales, died on October 2 aged 93. He was born on November 20, 1901.

DURING a long life, combining intrepid activity with the serener pursuit of scholarship, David Dilwyn John acquired an almost polymathic range of interests which were to contribute enormously to the cultural life of his native Wales. Though a zoologist by training, as director of Cardiff's National Museum of Wales he vastly expanded the museum's collection both on the scientific and the artistic sides.

David Dilwyn John was born one of the four children of a tenant farmer in the Vale of Glamorgan. His was a deeply rural childhood such as Thomas Hardy, always to remain one of his favourite authors, might have described. He was often to recall how as a boy he once walked eight miles just to watch a motor-car pass.

John was educated locally at Bridgend County School and was brought up in the strong Nonconformist tradition of the area. His father was an elder of the chapel. But even at a very early age John showed the sparkling intelligence which was to take him out into a less reclusive world. When a stern minister one day regaled his Sunday school flock with a sermon asserting the literality of biblical Creation stories, John, who had been reading Darwin's *Origin of Species*, piped up in disagreement. In chapel that evening a brimstone homily was preached against his heresies. But his parents, fortunately, were broad-minded enough not to take the matter further, and they continued to encourage their young son in his fascination for the natural world.

On leaving school John won a place at an agricultural college in Aberystwyth, intending eventually to follow in his father's footsteps. However, his college tutors were quick to recognise an unusual intellect, and under their recommendation he left to enrol at the University College of Wales, Aberystwyth, where he took a First in Zoology and completed a thesis on echinoderms.

In 1925 he was recruited as a zoologist on the scientific staff of Discovery Investigations, engaged in oceanographical research. He made three long voyages to the Antarctic on the research ships *RRS William Scoresby*, *Discovery* (Scott's vessel) and *Discovery II*. Here his tough upbringing served him well on ships which lacked most modern comforts. During dark winters amid freezing pack ice, conditions were rough and often perilous. But in those lonely wastelands where, apart from a gentle teasing of the elephant seals, there was little to amuse the men except their own companionship, the friendships forged were to last a lifetime.

John's own particular project in the Antarctic was to research into the feeding habits of whales. His findings played an important role in the subsequent drawing up of an international treaty restricting whaling practices. John made three voyages to the Antarctic in ten years. He fell in love with the barren beauty of the continent and left a permanent record of his time there when a mountain on Powell Island in the South Orkneys, Mt John, was named after him. He was awarded the Polar Medal in recognition of his work.

In 1935 John returned to live permanently in Britain. He was appointed assistant keeper in charge of echinoderms at the Natural History Museum in London and in 1948 was promoted to deputy keeper. But in 1936 he also joined the Territorial Army and was commissioned in the London Welsh Regiment on its formation. He became a major and commanded an anti-aircraft battery from 1942 to 1945. He also published a number of monographs, chiefly on echinoderms, in scientific journals.

While working at the Natural History Museum, John discovered and developed his administrative talents. In 1948 he was offered a position in Cardiff as director of the National Museum of Wales, a post which he was to hold for 20 years. His wide-ranging interests were reflected in the numerous developments which the museum saw under his directorship: the creation of the Welsh Folk Museum, the inauguration of the Museum Schools Service and its growth into a nationwide service to education, the development of a department of industry, the addition of a new west wing to the museum, and the construction of the first phase of the museum building at St Fagans. During this period the staff almost trebled.

David Dilwyn John, left, and *Discovery* steaming through pack ice near Bouvet Island

John brought prestige to the museum by holding a number of important offices, including the presidency of the Museums Association, of the Cardiff Naturalists' Society and of the Glamorgan County Naturalists' Trust. He was a member of many committees and other bodies, such as the council of the University College of South Wales and Monmouthshire, the academic board of the University of Wales, the Welsh Arts Council, the Nature Conservancy and the Schools Broadcasting Council for Wales.

In recognition of his work he was appointed CBE in 1961 and in 1968, the year of his retirement, the University of Wales conferred on him the Honorary Degree of LLD.

He retired in 1968 and lived in Cardiff. His sight never failed him and he remained an avid reader and prolific correspondent. He had a great love of literature, perhaps most particularly for Thomas Hardy whose beautiful, if poignant, evocations of rural life struck a chord with John. He was also especially fond of Herman Melville's *Moby Dick*, and reread it many times, reliving his youthful days at sea.

He is survived by his wife, Marjorie, and by a daughter and a son.

JACK HOLT

Jack Holt, racehorse trainer, died on October 3 aged 67. He was born on September 28, 1928.

FEW trainers can have had a more unusual start to their careers than Jack Holt. In 1949, when only 20, he cycled to Petworth Abbey and persuaded the monks there to lend him their disused stable and to rent him a neighbouring field for a handful of horses he had taken over from his father.

He later said: "Looking back on it now, I don't know how I managed it. I had only one saddle and about £40 to my name, so I mucked them all out and rode them out myself."

Despite lack of numbers, success was not long in coming. The following year, Holt sent out his first winner: King Rebel, ridden by the subsequent trainer, Dave Hanley, in a hurdle race at the attractive but now defunct jumping course at Wye, Kent.

Leonard John Holt was the son of a farmer who also trained a few horses. From an early age he was himself learning the business as well as, by 1947, competing successfully as an amateur. To begin with, he trained jumpers, first at Petworth, and next at stables now obliterated by the runways and buildings of Gatwick airport, before eventually settling at Tunworth Downs, Basingstoke, where he remained for 30 years.

Under National Hunt rules, his biggest success was with Stepherion, who won the George Duller Hurdle at the Cheltenham Festival in 1967. Holt used to recall that victory with particular enthusiasm, since he had backed the winner at 100-9 and the profits paid for a new car.

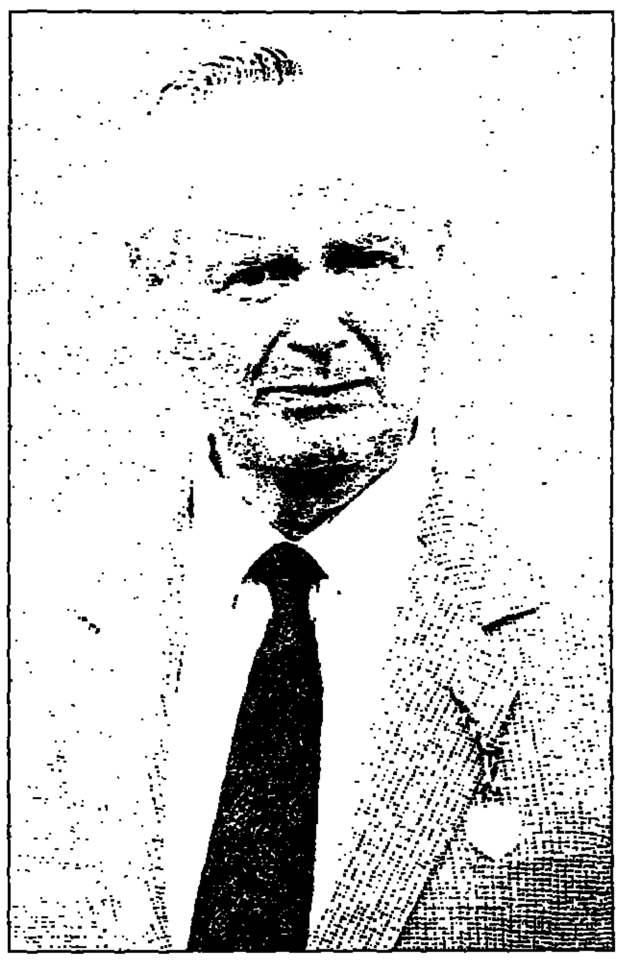
But he decided to concentrate on the Flat after a horse belonging to his wife was killed in a hurdle race. His first success under these rules had been at Windsor in 1954, and it was on this Thames-side track, 16 seasons later, that Holt had a remarkable run with a grey filly called Quortina. She obviously took a liking to the unusual figure-of-eight course and in 1970 triumphed there at the Monday evening meetings no fewer than five times. The Windsor management thereupon named a race after her — which two years later, Quortina herself won, making every yard of the running.

Quortina's optimum distance was one mile three furlongs, but Holt's reputation later became established as a master of training sprinters. In 1978-79, Epsom Imp twice captured the five-furlong Scarborough Stakes at Doncaster. In 1983, Deputy Head took the Northumberland Sprint trophy and in the same season, Sweet Monday won the important Abernant Stakes at the minimum distance (and only this year, Sweet Monday's offspring, Sweet Magic, also trained by Holt, broke the Newmarket five-furlong record).

But Holt's star sprinter was undoubtedly Argentum. This fast colt succeeded in the Cornwallis Stakes at Ascot and was rated joint-top two-year-old of 1989. The following season, he was an impressive winner of one of the top sprints in the racing calendar, the King George Stakes at Goodwood.

Holt never had a large string of horses, but everything he did was with a sure, professional touch. In addition, he was, without doubt, easily one of the most popular men in racing, as tributes paid to him on his death attest.

Only a month ago he announced his retirement because of ill-health. He had planned to retire to South Africa. Sadly, this was not to be. He leaves a widow, Ann.



PHOEBE DAVID

Phoebe David, OBE, former member of the Parole Board and non-executive director of Yorkshire Television, died on September 26 aged 73. She was born on August 17, 1922.

IT WAS Phoebe David's energetic and fearlessly outgoing personality, together with her solicitude for other people, which suited her so well for the distinguished and varied public career she was to follow as a magistrate, a member of the Parole Board and a non-executive director of Yorkshire Television.

Born in Weybridge, Surrey, she was brought up in Birkenhead, where her father was for many years a Conservative MP. She was educated at Howells School in Denbigh, but her gregarious nature perhaps did not suit her for an academic career. She decided against a university education and instead joined the WRNS during the war and was posted to America — an experience which soon overturned the conventions of her privileged upbringing.

In 1945 she married Bill David and moved to the village of Kirk Smeaton, near Pontefract, West Yorkshire. There she raised a family of three. But not content with a housewife's role she embarked with characteristic verve on increasingly important and demanding public work.

She became a magistrate in 1947 and served for 40 years on the bench, taking on various supernumerary responsibilities at the same time. She joined the Parole Board, not long after its inception, a position which involved the assessment of up to 30 cases every fortnight. The briefs which David carried into meetings would sometimes weigh as much as 20lb, yet her individual evaluation of each case never degenerated into mere routine and, most unusually, she was elected to serve a second three-year term on the board. She was also a member of the Judicial Studies Board and the Immigration Appeals Tribunal, and on top of all this still found time to be a prison visitor as well.

In 1980 she was elected non-executive director of Yorkshire Television, where her fiery and often outspoken personality made her one of the more prominent members of the board. She was unafraid to tackle even the most senior of her fellow directors, and she involved herself wholeheartedly at all levels of the company from the canteen staff to the chairman. "She was totally honest and without affectation," her former colleague Victor Watson recalls. "She brought great experience, humanity and humour to her work." As chairwoman of the programme advisory committee her deep understanding of people made her invaluable. Though cultured and intellectual, she understood that high quality work was not also, necessarily, highbrow.

David also chaired the arts and sciences committee and represented Yorkshire Television on Telethon, which led to her chairing yet another committee to allocate the funds to local charities. Her interest in these became, as always, deeply personal, and although by this time she was suffering from cancer of the spine, she made the effort to visit each of the charities she supported, however small and however remote.

In 1987, shortly after her husband's death, David retired from her magistracy and moved to Suffolk to be near her son. She was appointed OBE for her long and loyal service to the bench. Her energy and capacity for enjoyment did not seem to wane. She continued to serve on Yorkshire Television's programme advisory committee until just four days before her death. She was also an ardent bridge player, and though initially she had known almost no one in Suffolk, people from all over the county were soon congregating round her card table to enjoy a rubber. From her cheerful demeanour, few of these ever realised how ill she actually was.

She is survived by a daughter and by two sons.

ADITYA BIRLA

Aditya Vikram Birla, Indian industrialist, died of cancer on October 1 aged 50. He was born on November 14, 1944.

THE NAME Birla has been virtually synonymous with Indian entrepreneurship for more than six decades. In combining his famous inheritance with a remarkable strategic vision, Aditya Birla successfully brought the House of Birla to the international stage. He represented the most positive and dynamic face of Indian industry.

The favourite grandson of Sir Ghyanashyam Das Birla — the public-spirited patriarch who was a leading patron of Mahatma Gandhi and the Indian nationalist movement — Aditya Birla gauged quite early the importance of looking beyond national frontiers. Unlike other industrial houses which were content to bask under the protectionist sun, Aditya Birla's $1.7 billion industrial empire also reached out to the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia and Egypt. Nearly half his group's turnover originated outside India.

This ability to penetrate the competitive markets of Asia gave him the assurance to favour a free market in India. "We are not afraid of global competition," he once said, "let it be afraid of us." He welcomed the post-1991 liberalisation of the Indian economy as an opportunity to get "more aggressive".

His self-confidence was matched by actual performance. Apart from restoring ailing units such as Indian Rayon and Indo-Gulf Fertilisers to health and profitability, Birla presided over at least ten blue-chip companies. They included Grasim Industries, Hindalco — India's largest integrated aluminium plant — and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals, the most ambitious petroleum refinery in the private sector.

Collectively, the Aditya Birla group is the largest producer of viscose fibre internationally. A palm oil refinery set up in collaboration with Pan Edible Century Oil in Malaysia is also reckoned to be the biggest of its kind.

So profound was investor confidence in Birla that he raised $623 million in the past three years from the London capital markets for his four main Indian companies. Despite the sluggishness of the Indian stock markets, at least three of them command premiums in the London GDR market.

Educated at St Xavier's College, Calcutta, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, Birla successfully adapted the Marwari community's traditional entrepreneurial flair to the imperatives of technology and professional management.

At the same time, he did not abandon either his community's frugal ways or its deep commitment to family values and the Hindu religion. Legend has it that the Birlas must always be engaged in the building of a Hindu temple for the sake of the family's prosperity. Aditya Birla stuck to the family traditions. Despite his Western apparel, he was not a Westernised Indian.

In another respect, however, he departed from family tradition. Despite being the most successful Birla, he did not emulate his grandfather's penchant for dabbling in Congress party politics. Aditya Birla maintained a remarkably low public profile. His name never featured in any of the furious controversies involving politicians and business houses.

Awarded the *Businessman of the Year* prize in 1990 and the Rashtra Bhushan award in 1992, Birla was a director of the Reserve Bank of India from 1983 to 1994, a member of India's Board of Trade and a director of the public sector Air India. He served on the governing body of the Asian Institute of Management in Manila and the Asian Convertibles and Income Fund promoted by the Asian Development Bank.

An artist of some distinction, he held an exhibition of his paintings in Bombay in 1990. He was also an accomplished badminton player.

He is survived by his wife Rajshree, a daughter Basavdatta and a son, Kumaramangalam.

RAMESH PATHIANA

PERSONAL COLUMN

BIRTHDAYS

DARLING CARRIE Happy Birthday. 'twas the best year, love Malcin (Gnaw T) [illegible]

FOR SALE

ROYAL DOULTON Dickens Characters. Complete set of 54. Offers Tel: 01984 623 272.

YORK, PENNANT, slate, limestone & terracotta flagstones & floor tiles. Cobble setts, stone troughs, masonry service. Nat & internat del. Holley Hextall 01380 850039 (Wilts)

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HARRODS ANTIQUE & FINE FURNITURE EXHIBITION.
7th October – 4th November 1995
An exhibition of furniture from the Victorian & Edwardian eras will be offered for sale in the Furniture Theatre, Third Floor.
For further information please telephone 0171 225 [illegible]
Harrods
Harrods Ltd, Knightsbridge, London SW1.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

DUNWERDAS Erika Helena. Anyone having knowledge of her whereabouts or whether she is alive please tel 0117 9661719

THE ZITO TRUST
The Zito Trust established by Jayne Zito will hold its second fundraising classical concert (Copland, Mozart, Elgar) performed by The Zito Ensemble on Saturday 14th October at St. Mary's Church, Bryanston Square, Marylebone at 7.30 pm. All proceeds raised will go to The Zito Trust's pioneering work in the field of community care. Tickets are £10 and are available from the Trust on 0171 240 3422.

ANIMALS IN NEED
[illegible]

[illegible]
We honour those who gave their lives for our country. But what of those who shared the same horrors and survived...their minds shattered. The Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society cares for men and women from the services with varying degrees of mental illness in our convalescent homes and veterans home.
A donation now or a legacy later will help those who have given their most precious gift after life itself.
COMBAT STRESS
Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society
Broadway House, The Broadway, Wimbledon SW19 1RL.
Tel: 0181 543 6333
Reg Charity No 206002

CAMBRIDGE GRADUATES
CAM magazine is a publication produced specifically for alumni of the University of Cambridge. If you do not receive this publication (which is free of charge) and would like to do so, please write to:
Ms Jenny Justice
University of Cambridge
10 Trumpington Street
Cambridge
CB2 1QA
Please give your current name and address, any previous names used, your College and years that you were at Cambridge. We will then add you to our mailing list.

Kidney Research Saves Lives
Please help with a donation now and a legacy later
NATIONAL KIDNEY RESEARCH
NATIONAL KIDNEY RESEARCH FUND
Dept.TT, 42 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7RG
Registered Charity No [illegible]

British Heart Foundation
The heart research charity.
102 Gloucester Place, London W1H 4DH.

THE RAF RISES TO THE CHALLENGE
From 1919 the Fund has been helping RAF Members, their widows and children including many thousands disabled during the last war, during training and now, today, wherever conflict arises. Last year over £275 million was needed to help over 16,000 cases.
Please help with a donation or remember us in your will.
Will you rise to the challenge, too?
THE ROYAL AIR FORCE BENEVOLENT FUND
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You helped us in ASSOCIATION now help us in ACTION
London Association for the Blind has changed its name. Now we're working even harder to provide better services to blind or partially sighted people; at our care homes, through employment or cash help for those in need.
A donation or covenant now and a legacy later will make it all possible.
action for blind people
Ref.TT, 14-16 Verney Road, London SE16 3DZ. Telephone: 071-732 8771
London Association for the Blind. Registered Charity No.205913

ON THIS DAY

October 7, 1872

The late 19th century saw a revival of pilgrimages in Europe. Two rival destinations in France were La Salette and Lourdes. Both places claimed visions of the Virgin Mary.

RIVAL PILGRIMAGES

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

PARIS, OCT 5

It is a singular and interesting subject of observation to watch the development of the two most powerful ideas operating in France at the present moment. While the Government and its supporters are maintaining the balance between them as best they may, the rival forces seem slowly to be gathering the impetus which must sooner or later hurl them into inevitable collision; and it is worthy of remark that the South of France is the scene of the manifestations in each case.

In those provinces it is Democracy and Superstition, the twin results of ignorance, that are preparing to do battle with each other, and where Gambetta hopes, by thundering out Socialism and infidelity, to drown the hymns of the pilgrims. At 9 o'clock yesterday morning the church of Notre Dame des Victoires, well known to most of your readers as the chief receptacle in Paris of "*ex voto*" offerings, was crowded with pilgrims.

A strong force of *Gardiens de Paix* had been provided in case of disturbance, and although nothing occurred, it was evidently a wise precaution, as numerous ill-favoured roughs and Communistic looking characters were prowling about, regarding with a contemptuous air the whole performance. The pilgrims from Paris alone amounted to about 1,300. Of these about half seemed to be priests, who carried packets of tracts, pamphlets, and hymns of praise of Notre Dame de Lourdes. The remainder were for the most part old women of the middle or poorer class, laden with bundles and handbaskets, after the manner of old women generally . . .

As your readers are, perhaps, aware, the particular Dogma which all this is to celebrate is that of the Immaculate Conception. On the 11th of February, 1858, a girl of 14, named Bernadette, gathering firewood, found herself separated from her companions, and near a small cave, at the entrance to which appeared a beautiful and luminous woman, whom she does not seem at once to have recognized as the Virgin, but with whose lovely and tender countenance she was none the less fascinated. She recounted her experience to the *curé*, and daily went to the mountain and saw the same appearance, but it does not seem to have been until the 25th of March that, at the suggestion of her director, she said:— "Madame, voulez vous me dire qui vous êtes?"

"La dame détache alors son regard de l'enfant, sépare ses mains et plus rayonnante que jamais, l'oeil plongé dans la gloire du ciel, elle dit, 'Je suis l'Immaculée Conception' — puis elle disparut."

The pamphlet adds:— "Bernadette lost no time in running and telling Monsieur le Curé the name of the lady, and then the curate understood, and the Christian people understood it. It was the Virgin, mother of God, who was come herself to confirm the Dogma which the Pope had just proclaimed."

There is evidently a splendid opening just now for another little girl to render the Pope a material service, by finding the Dogma of Infallibility confirmed in another cave somewhere else . . .

THE TIMES TODAY

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7 1995

NEWS

Rosemary West weeps as trial opens

■ Rosemary West cried in the dock of Winchester Crown court yesterday as a jury was told how ten girls and young women met *their deaths at the hands of her and her husband to satisfy their* "depraved and violent" desires. Jurors were warned that they would hear evidence about discoveries underneath the West home "more terrible than words can express"......... **Pages 1, 4, 5**

Prince's housekeeper loses book profits

■ The Prince of Wales is to receive all the profits from a book by his former housekeeper wherever it is published, a High Court judge ruled. Wendy Berry, who worked at Highgrove House for nine years, published her diary in the United States and Canada this year, in breach of a worldwide ban............................ **Page 1**

Budget tax cuts

Tax cuts for middle-income earners will be a priority for Kenneth Clarke's Budget in late November. People in that group earn £28,000-£30,000 a year.................. **Page 2**

The Ritz sold

The reclusive tycoon twins, David and Frederick Barclay, have bought the Ritz Hotel in a surprise £75 million cash deal........ **Page 3**

Bank head quits

The chairman of Daiwa Bank is to resign over the £700 million losses caused by unauthorised trading in its New York branch........ **Page 13**

School run tragedy

A mother and two children were killed and two other children hurt when a lorry crushed their car on their way to school............ **Page 6**

OJ backlash

President Clinton urged Americans not to let reactions to the O.J. Simpson acquittal cause a new split between races.......... **Page 14**

Pasolini inquiry

Twenty years after the film director Pier Paolo Pasolini was battered to death in Rome, a new inquiry into his death is being sought .... **Page 16**

Awards attacked

The Law Society president delivered a blistering attack on recent "preposterous" awards for sex and race discrimination....... **Page 9, 21**

Berks bites back

Royal Berkshire won the first legal round in its fight to survive as a county council.................. **Page 11**

Cuba curbs lifted

President Clinton relaxed restrictions on travel and aid to Cuba to undermine the regime by spreading democratic ideas........ **Page 14**

On the warpath

President Jacques Chirac is under attack from Denmark's fearsome "ice queen", Ritt Bjerregaard, over France's nuclear tests ...... **Page 16**

Great expectations for lost portraits

■ Two long-lost portraits of Charles Dickens's wife, Catherine, have been found in private homes and are to be exhibited in London. They show her as the radiant woman Dickens married in 1836 rather than the better known elderly figure......... **Page 8**

ERIC MILLER/REUTER

Nuns at the Mass when the Pope told 83,000 worshippers that abortion was a blight on America. Page 14

OPINION

Days of Blair: The critical *task for the Labour leader is* similar to that of Margaret Thatcher in the late 1970s: to *persuade the vast majority of* his MPs that his project is theirs too .... **Page 21**

In the OK Corral: A more measured approach by Martin Mears would serve the Law Society better. The president's lurid language has ruined the few valid arguments he has............ **Page 21**

PAPERS

O.J. Simpson is no hero. He was great at running with a football and away from responsibility. His case has shoved domestic violence into the background. Those who beat women can never be heroes — *USA Today*

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: The bulk of *the exhibition Africa the Art of a Continent* is what we might find in the attic of a colonial *governor*, and one with peculiar tastes.. **Page 20**

Philip Howard: Henry VIII built St James's Palace as a hunting lodge and a secret rendezvous for romps with Anne Boleyn, combining two royal pleasures......... **Page 20**

OBITUARIES

David Dilwyn John, Director of the National Museum of Wales; **Jack Holt**, racehorse trainer; **Aditya Birla**, Indian industrialist.. **Page 23**

LETTERS

Labour conference; metrication; Greenwich Royal Naval College .... **Page 21**

BUSINESS

Channel tunnel: Eurotunnel *hopes to reach agreement on* reorganising its financing with its main bankers by the *end of January*. Shareholder committees will be set up in France and Britain .. **Page 25**

Barings: *The Serious Fraud* Office has taken steps to block a private prosecution against Nick Leeson, the trader blamed for the collapse of Barings .... **Page 25**

Electricity: Scottish Power declared victory in its battle for Manweb, the regional electricity company.. **Page 25**

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index closed at 3526.5, down 17.9 points. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose to 85.1 after falling from $1.5825 to $1.5813 and from DM2.2633 to DM2.2562............. **Page 28**

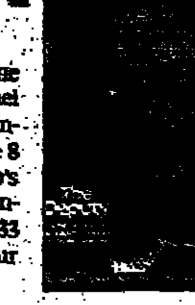
Rugby league: The World *Cup opens with a match at* Wembley between two of the most fancied sides, England and Australia, the reigning champions......... **Pages 46, 48**

Rugby union: Bob Dwyer, who coached Australia to victory in the 1991 World Cup, has been removed from the post. He is to be succeeded by Greg Smith............... **Page 48**

Golf: Russell Claydon broke the course record with a 61 in the second round of the German Masters in Berlin to hold a one-stroke lead over the field...................... **Page 47**

Racing: Declan Murphy, the National Hunt jockey, has been granted permission to ride again, 17 months after a fall at Haydock almost cost him his life................. **Page 44**

MAGAZINE



The old pretender: Annie McElvoy reports on Michael Heseltine, Prime Minister-in-waiting........................ **Page 8**

Wild things: Iain R. Webb's 44-page guide to men's winter fashion .... **Page 33**

Cult films: Part Three of our Top 100 countdown

WEEKEND

The slippery slope: Ginny Dougary takes her family skiing .... **Pages 1, 3**

Travel: *The good ski guide,* plus the pick of Christmas getaways.................. **Pages 4-9**

Books: *Douglas Hurd casts a* quizzical eye over Andrew Roberts's Eurosceptic novel; plus thrillers....... **Pages 10-12**

10 15

The weekly magazine for young Times readers.

Teen drama: Brookside meets Beverly Hills 90210 in the new *British soap*.. **Page 6**

Win: Pizza Hut party; a year's supply of crisps; Reebok *football boots* .... **Page 3**

Recommended: best books, music and films ...... **Page 10**

vision

Cover story: *Delia Smith's Winter Collection,* a new, gimmick-free, 12-part series, begins on Wednesday, BBC2, 8pm

Film of the week: Emma Thompson's Oscar-winning performance in James Ivory's adaptation of *Howards End,* Tuesday, C4, 9pm

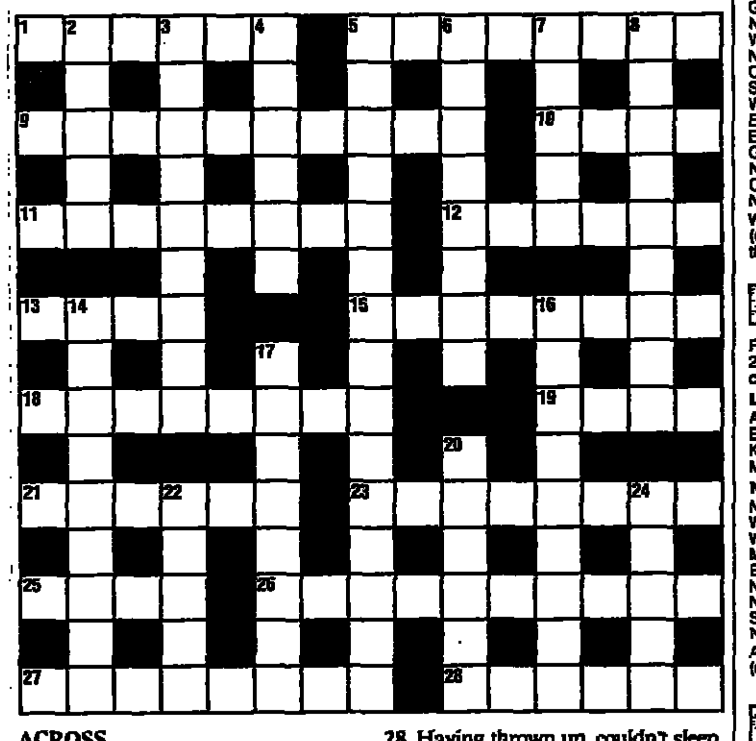
THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,980

KNOCKANDO

A bottle of Knockando, a superb Speyside Single Malt Scotch whisky uniquely bottled only when at its peak of perfection rather than at a pre-determined age, together with a fine leather credit card wallet, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address ....

....



ACROSS

1 Blades needed for cartilaginous fish (6)
5 Secure mansion, but it's easy to get in here (4,4)
9 Raw American formation losing a conflict with the Russians (7,3)
10 Stop having doctor round (4)
11 Sprint to secure prison (8)
12 Came into violent contact with second vehicle (6)
13 Obscure contributor to sacred canon (4)
15 Group pursued by wild beast is a bundle of nerves (8)
18 Article written in bombastic language — how like the damned man! (8)
19 Mushrooms brought back for detailed description (4)
21 Be idle at work — liable to get chewed up (6)
23 Dog breed seen running below the mill (4-4)
25 Curry tastes sweet (4)
26 Modern Christmas? (7,3)
27 Pawnbroker starts to neglect customers — has to relax (8)
28 Having thrown up, couldn't sleep (6)

DOWN

2 Destiny may sound rather serene (5)
3 Hair cut by almost vain Delilah, say (9)
4 Field-Marshal omits to incorporate peace formula (6)
5 Set the war dogs on — in other words, stir up trouble (3,7,5)
6 Representing a number at a bargain price (3,1,4)
7 Relish talking to someone of economy (5)
8 Unusually, I hate rock plant (9)
14 Where Puck led the lovers, not always well (2,3,4)
16 Ceremony girl holds meaningless (4,5)
17 Penalises joke that is not practical (4,4)
20 Strip tease originally looked down on by night-clubs (6)
22 Child left in confusion (5)
24 Clear out of county (5)

Solution to Puzzle No 19,974

P	O	L	Y	P		H	O	P	E	C	H	E	S	T
O		E		Q		I		A		O		D		A
L	A	M	P	L	I	G	H	T		P	R	I	N	K
I		O		I		H		R		S		T		E
C	A	N	S	T		W	R	I	T	E	D	O	W	N
E				I		A		O				R		
M	I	M	I	C	R	Y		T	O	P	S	I	D	E
E		O		A						L		A		X
N	O	N	P	L	U	S		F	L	A	T	L	E	T
		K				H		O		Y				E
P	O	S	T	E	R	I	O	R		B	L	O	O	M
I		H		X		N		M		Y		N		P
T	R	O	U	T		D	U	O	D	E	C	I	M	O
C		O		R		I		S		A		O		R
H	Y	D	R	A	N	G	E	A		R	A	N	G	E

Solution to Puzzle No 19,979

G	O	D	O	W	N		I	D	O	L	A	T	E	R
Y		E		I		A		I		O		E		E
R	A	M	A	D	A	N		A	S	U	N	D	E	R
O		E		O		N		T		T		I		U
S	T	R	A	W	B	E	R	R	Y		J	O	I	N
C		I		S				I		M		U		
O	T	T	O	M	A	N		B	L	O	S	S	O	M
P				I		A		E		T				O
E	Q	U	A	T	O	R		S	W	I	T	H	I	N
		P		E		C				O		O		E
F	I	F	E		W	I	L	L	Y	N	I	L	L	Y
O		R		T		S		I		L		S		B
C	R	O	E	S	U	S		E	L	E	C	T	R	A
U		N		A		U		D		S		E		G
S	A	T	I	R	I	S	T		O	S	I	R	I	S

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: *F W J Cowan, Swindon, Wiltshire; D A Cock, Ingrave, Essex; W J P Aggett, Curry Rivel, Somerset; D M Lennie, Oxford; R David, Solva, Dyfed.*

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by the code.

Greater London	701
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Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
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Wilts,Gloucs,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks,Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk,Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Herefds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness,Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

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London & SE traffic, roadworks

Area within M25	731
Essex/Herts/Beds/Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736

National traffic and roadworks

National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
7.10 am	6.26 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
5.41 am	5.48 pm

Full Moon Tomorrow

London 6.26 pm to 7.12 am
Bristol 6.36 pm to 7.22 am
Edinburgh 6.34 pm to 7.29 am
Manchester 6.33 pm to 7.22 am
Penzance 6.49 pm to 7.32 am

TOMORROW

Sun rises:	Sun sets:
7.12 am	6.24 pm
Moon sets	Moon rises
6.53 am	6.14 pm

Full Moon Today

London 6.24 pm to 7.14 am
Bristol 6.34 pm to 7.23 am
Edinburgh 6.31 pm to 7.31 am
Manchester 6.30 pm to 7.24 am
Penzance 6.47 pm to 7.34 am

HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	0:13	7.22	0:28	7.17
Aberdeen	-	-	0:25	4.21
Avonmouth	5:57	12.99	6:19	13.49
Belfast	9:54	3.35	10:07	3.53
Cardiff	5:42	12.16	6:06	12.65
Devonport	4:33	5.30	4:47	5.53
Dover	9:50	6.58	10:22	6.52
Dublin	10:39	4.07	10:43	4.26
Falmouth	4:00	4.88	4:19	5.27
Glasgow	11:21	4.65	11:46	4.78
Harwich	10:38	3.91	11:09	4.08
Holyhead	9:15	5.43	9:22	5.77
Hull	4:51	7.32	5:34	7.29
Ilfracombe	4:40	9.19	5:02	9.61
King's Lynn	4:48	5.66	5:17	6.58
Leith	1:12	5.45	1:48	5.54
Liverpool	10:06	8.14	10:21	9.65
Lowestoft	7:56	2.56	8:44	2.46
Margate	10:53	4.82	11:29	5.00
Milford Haven	4:59	6.78	5:18	7.12
Newquay	3:48	6.57	4:07	6.87
Oban	4:41	3.85	4:55	4.11
Penzance	3:26	5.17	3:42	5.44
Portland	5:32	2.01	5:47	2.18
Portsmouth	10:14	4.80	10:29	4.74
Shoreham	10:14	6.32	10:34	6.28
Southampton	9:40	4.56	9:57	4.46
Swansea	5:01	9.32	5:24	9.73
Tees	2:14	5.27	2:47	5.34
W'ton-on-Nze	10:31	4.17	11:03	4.33

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HIGHEST & LOWEST

Thursday: Highest day temp: Poole, Dorset, 19C (66F); lowest day max: Cape Wrath, Highland, 11C (52F); highest rainfall: Glasgow, 1.02in, highest sunshine: Birmingham, 9.9hr

FORECAST

☐ **General:** southern England and Wales will have a rather cloudy morning with patchy rain turning more persistent for a time. Drier conditions will spread from the south with some brightness later. Northern areas should start dry but the thicker cloud and rain in the south will push up in the afternoon. Drier later.

Scotland and Northern Ireland will *start bright, with most places dry apart* from a few scattered showers in the north. But cloud will thicken from the south, bringing rain to the south by late afternoon and across northern areas during the evening.

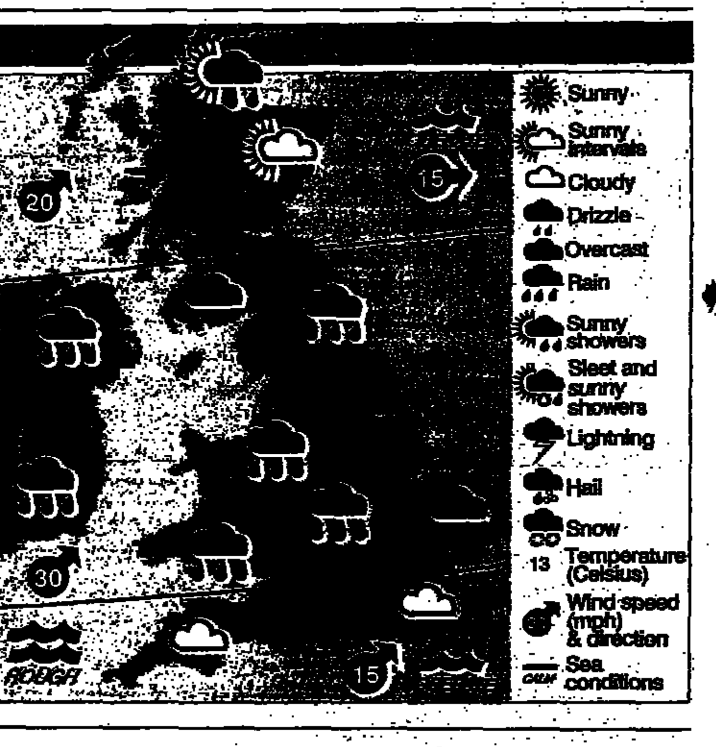
☐ **London, SE, Cent S, SW England, E Anglia, Midlands, Channel Is, S Wales:** cloudy with patchy rain or drizzle, turning more persistent for a time. Brightening from south during afternoon. Wind south to southwest moderate or fresh. Max 19C (66F).

☐ **E, NW, Cent N, NE England, N Wales, NW England, Lakes, IoM:** dry start. Cloud increasing with rain spreading from south. Becoming drier later. Wind south to southwest moderate. Max 18C (64F).

☐ **Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland:** dry, bright morning. Cloud increasing with rain later. Wind mostly south moderate becoming southwest fresh to strong later. Max 16C (61F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** bright with scattered showers. Cloud increasing later with rain spreading from the south during *the evening. Wind west to southwest* moderate becoming southeast fresh to strong.

☐ **Outlook:** cloud and rain in northwest pushing southeastwards, reaching all but southeast England.



AROUND BRITAIN

24 hrs to 5 pm: b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

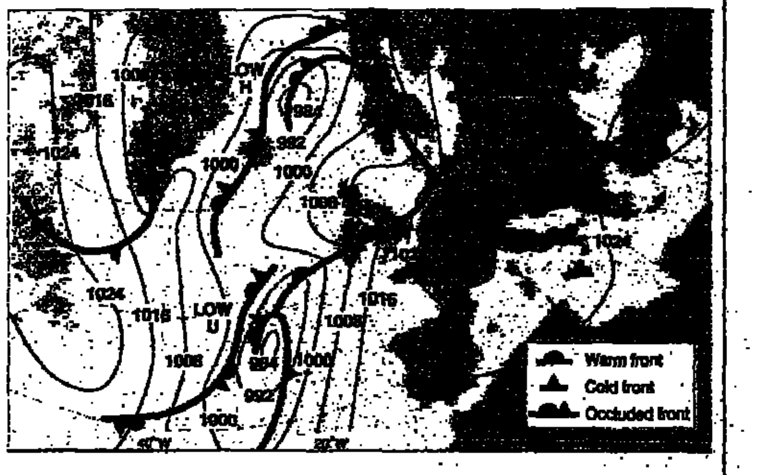
	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F			Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	5.2	0.02	16	61	s	Lerwick	1.6	0.01	13	55	r
Anglesey	9.0	-	16	61	s	Leuchars	6.6	0.02	15	59	sh
Aspatria	6.9	0.05	15	59	sh	Littlehmptn	8.5	0.07	17	63	s
Aviemore	4.9	0.13	13	55	b	Liverpool	9.7	0.02	15	59	sh
Belfast	6.6	-	15	59	b	London	9.1	-	17	63	s
Birmingham	9.9	-	17	63	sh	Lowestoft	8.2	-	17	63	s
Bognor R	8.6	0.10	17	63	sh	Manchester	8.4	-	17	63	s
Bournem'th	7.4	0.21	17	63	sh	Margate	8.7	-	18	64	s
Bristol	7.4	0.08	16	61	sh	Minehead	8.4	0.06	17	63	s
Buxton	8.0	0.04	14	57	s	Morecambe	6.5	0.24	15	59	sh
Cardiff	7.2	0.09	16	61	sh	Newcastle	9.5	-	16	61	s
Clacton	9.6	0.08	17	63	s	Newquay	7.2	0.02	17	63	b
Cleethorpes	X					Norwich	9.3	-	17	63	s
Colwyn Bay	8.6	-	17	63	s	Nottingham	X				
Cromer	8.7	-	17	63	s	Oxford	8.0	0.12	16	61	s
Doncaster	X					Penzance	X	0.17	18	64	s
Dunbar	X					Plymouth	X				
Eastbourne	7.9	0.20	17	63	s	Poole	7.9	0.03	19	66	s
Edinburgh	6.8	0.09	15	59	sh	Prestatyn	X				
Eskdalemuir	5.3	0.04	13	55	sh	Ross-o-wye	8.4	0.05	16	61	sh
Exmouth	8.3	0.09	16	61	s	Salcombe	9.2	-	17	63	s
Falmouth	8.5	0.07	18	64	s	Sandown	6.9	0.18	17	63	sh
Fishguard	8.6	0.12	16	61	s	Sauntn Snd	8.0	0.16	17	63	s
Folkestone	8.6	0.19	17	63	sh	Scarboro'	7.9	-	16	61	s
Glasgow	X	1.02	X	X	X	Shrewsbury	9.1	-	17	63	s
Guernsey	8.2	-	19	66	s	Skegness	9.3	-	17	63	s
Hastings	8.2	0.07	18	64	s	Southsea	5.4	0.32	17	63	sh
Hayling I.	6.9	0.13	17	63	s	Stornoway	5.2	0.16	13	55	sh
Herne Bay	8.4	0.02	17	63	sh	Swanage	7.2	0.22	17	63	sh
Hove	6.5	0.04	17	63	s	Teignmouth	9.4	-	17	63	s
Hunstanton	9.0	-	17	63	s	Tenby	4.7	0.14	17	63	c
Ilfracombe	X					Tiree	5.7	0.41	14	57	sh
Isle of Man	7.1	-	15	59	b	Torquay	9.1	-	18	64	s
Jersey	8.0	0.14	18	64	f	Ventnor	7.7	0.16	16	61	sh
Kinloss	7.3	-	15	59	b	Weymouth	7.8	-	17	63	s
Leeds	9.3	-	16	61	s						

These are Thursday's figures

ABROAD

Ajaccio	25	77	f	Corfu	24	75	s	Madrid	22	72	s	Rome	24	75	s
Akrotiri	26	79	s	C'phagn	14	57	f	Majorca	24	75	f	S Fr'sco	23	73	s
Alex'dria	27	81	c	Dublin	17	63	f	Malaga	23	73	f	S Paulo	22	72	c
Algiers	27	81	f	Dubrovnik	22	72	s	Malta	23	73	c	Salzburg	22	72	s
Amst'dm	17	63	s	Faro	22	72	s	Melb'rne	17	63	s	Santiago	19	66	s
Athens	25	77	s	Florence	23	73	f	Mexico C	X			Seoul	17	63	s
B Aires	24	75	s	Frankfurt	17	63	c	Milan	18	64	c	Sing'por	32	90	f
Bahrain	32	90	s	Funchal	22	72	s	Montreal	15	59	s	St'kholm	14	57	f
Bangkok	30	86	c	Geneva	18	64	f	Moscow	13	55	s	Strasb'rg	17	63	c
Barbados	X			Gibraltar	23	73	s	Munich	18	64	s	Sydney	25	77	f
Barcelona	22	72	s	Helsinki	11	52	r	N Delhi	33	91	s	Tangier	26	79	s
Beirut	26	79	s	Hong K	25	77	f	N York	21	70	r	Tel Aviv	27	81	s
Belgrade	25	77	s	Innsbrck	19	66	f	Nairobi	25	77	f	Tenerife	25	77	f
Berlin	18	64	f	Istanbul	20	68	f	Naples	26	79	s	Tokyo	22	72	c
Bermuda	27	81	f	Jeddah	38	100	s	Nice	21	70	c	Toronto	13	55	c
Biarritz	23	73	s	Jo'burg	X			Oslo	14	57	s	Tunis	29	84	s
Borde'x	21	70	s	Karachi	33	91	s	Paris	20	68	s	Valencia	23	73	f
Brussels	18	64	s	L Angels	24	75	s	Peking	18	64	s	Vanc'ver	13	55	f
Budapst	20	68	s	L Palmas	25	77	f	Perth	18	64	c	Venice	22	72	f
Cairo	28	82	s	Le Tquet	18	64	f	Prague	17	63	f	Vienna	16	61	c
Cape Tn	17	63	f	Lisbon	21	70	s	Reykjavik	8	46	f	Warsaw	21	70	s
Ch'church	X			Locarno	18	64	r	Rhodes	24	75	s	Wash'ton	24	75	c
Chicago	13	55	r	Luxembg	13	55	c	Rio de J	24	75	f	Wel'ngton	X		
Cologne	16	61	s	Luxor	37	99	s	Riyadh	35	95	s	Zurich	17	63	c

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to the chart above from noon: low H will push northwards and fill. Low U will spread northeast and deepen. High R will be slow-moving with little change in pressure

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هكذا من الأصل

BOOKS

Alan Bennett and the voice of his Mam

Page 11

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PROPERTY

Where to live in the grand manor

Page 20

PLUS: Hunt, Paddock and Turret, page 20

Magnificent baby mansions for grown-ups

Page 19

PLUS: Heritage Awards page 14

Good ski guide from the Alps to the Andes

Pages 4-5

PLUS: Where to escape at Christmas, pages 6-8

WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY OCTOBER 7 1995

GINNY DOUGARY: MY FA [illegible]

My first day this time round started the way it ended — freezing and in tears — and confirmed a long-held belief that the pleasure of a skiing holiday is most definitely outweighed by the pain. The full huffing and puffing horror of it all had multiplied along with the size of our family. Now, in the dark mornings, four pairs of feet had to be swaddled in double layers of socks and clamped into heavy boots which managed to look and feel orthopaedic. Thermal leggings and vests, hideous salopettes, thick sweaters, bulky anoraks, woolly hats, goggles, mittens: each item begrudgingly put on by our young sons only after a series of lengthy barterings.

Then the caterwauling infants' chorus of "When will we be there?" all the way from the hotel at the top of the village down to the nursery slopes, their grim-faced parents endeavouring to negotiate the icy road, while balancing two sets of skis, holding bushels of ski sticks as well as the boys' hands. And the adults had their own chorus of heart-stopping — if unspoken — questions: can we avoid the inexorable onslaught of the snow-crushing machine? Next time we slide on the ice, will we go tumbling down on our backsides? Will we ever get there in one piece?

Our first mistake was to think that it would be fun to introduce our children to the joys (ha!) of skiing without the help of the professionals. This was a spectacularly wrong-footed move, because I needed every assistance possible to stay upright on my skis. It would have been better to leave the instruction to Bruce, my husband, who is an expert skier, but the boys — Tom is seven, Darcy is just four — clearly needed one-to-one attention.

The experiment did little to enhance the image of the English family abroad. We soon descended into a round of loud recriminations: "Go to Mummy, Darcy"; "I want Daddy!"; "TOM! Uncross your skis!" "BRUCE! You must be more patient with them"; "GINNY! Get a grip on yourself." We were put out of our misery only when a man who ran the kindergarten slopes on which we had innocently trespassed waved his sticks at us and joined in The Shouting Game: "*C'est privé! Allez-vous-en!*"

That afternoon the boys and I were due to have a private lesson, leaving Bruce to show off off-piste. (Leaving me, as I was to discover, feeling distinctly piste-off.) But when the instructor shook her head firmly and said, "It's 'opeless with ze mothers", as Darcy clung to my legs, I took off on my own: the second mistake of the day.

With no map, no husband or teacher, no knowledge of the runs, and with all my fellow skiers whizzing past too fast to help, I was

Continued on page 3, col 1

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CHOICE

Planning to see a show or a film, an exhibition or a concert? *The Times* critics select the best entertainment

Ian Hart is the lad from Liverpool who sets off for Spain to become a revolutionary fighting for the Republicans in Ken Loach's new film, *Land and Freedom*

FILMS

Geoff Brown

LAND AND FREEDOM (15): In Ken Loach's hands the Spanish Civil War leaps out of history books about the 1930s to become a matter of burning importance. Ian Hart's Liverpool lad sets off to fight for the Republicans, his head full of woolly ideals. Experience tempers him into a hard revolutionary fighter. Then comes disillusionment. Loach and writer Jim Allen give a human face to the political discourse, with *humour and even a dollop of* romance. For once, Loach has lines of extras and landscapes to explore, not housing estates or pubs. But the camera stays tight on faces, and the human hopes and follies they reveal.
Chelsea (0171-351 3742) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Curzon West End** *(0171-369 1722)* **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Richmond** (0181-332 0030) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Green** (0171-226 3520).

POCAHONTAS (U): The bandwagon is rolling for the Disney company's newest animated feature. It is smoothly packaged, of course, though this slab of considerably rewritten history lacks the visual exuberance of *Aladdin* or the dramatic force of *The Lion King. Pocahontas, daughter of an* American Indian chief, catches the eye of John Smith (voiced by Mel Gibson), one of the English adventurers who land in Virginia in 1607. Their romance is decorated with songs, comic turns and politically correct sentiments.
Odeon Leicester Square, W1 (01426-915 683).

CLASSICAL

Richard Morrison

NORWICH GOES GREEK: The splendidly revitalised Norfolk and Norwich Festival has the theme of Greek Echoes this year. That means everything from concerts by the fine young Greek pianist Giorgos Lazaridis (Wed) and La Camerata Orchestra from Athens (Thur) to a premiere by the heavyweight Greek composer Xenakis, a *performance of Purcell's Dido and Aeneas* and traditional Greek song and dance. Plus, of course, John Tavener, Modern Britain's very own ancient Byzantine composer will be in residence during the festival and has produced a new piece to be premiered in Norwich Cathedral tonight (7.30pm). Called *Let Us Begin Again*, it sets a text by the Orthodox nun Mother Thekla and is mimed as well as sung. Should be good for the soul.
Norfolk and Norwich Festival (booking and details 01603 764764), until October 15.

RATTLE'S BEETHOVEN: After a superlative beginning to their Beethoven cycle, Simon Rattle and the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra move on to the Fourth and Fifth Symphonies. Revelations expected: Rattle has not lost his extraordinary talent for making the most familiar music sound fresh and unexpected.
Symphony Hall, Birmingham (0121-212 3333), Wed, 7.30pm; **Barbican Hall**, EC2 (0171-638 8891), Fri, *7.15pm*.

OPERA

Rodney Milnes

JENUFA: Josephine Barstow takes a second stab at one of opera's great barnstorming roles, the morally-upright, child-murdering Kostelnička in Janáček's small-town Greek tragedy (her first, at ENO last year, *was not altogether* happy). She is not without competition in Opera North's new production opening on Wednesday: the US dramatic soprano Stephanie Friede sings the title role, and Pauline Tinsley returns as the formidable Grannie. The director-designer is Tom Cairns, who gave us *The Second Mrs Kong*, and Opera North's music director Paul *Daniel conducts.*
Grand Theatre, New Briggate, Leeds (0113-244 0971/245 9351), Wed 11, Fri 13, 7.15pm. Ⓢ

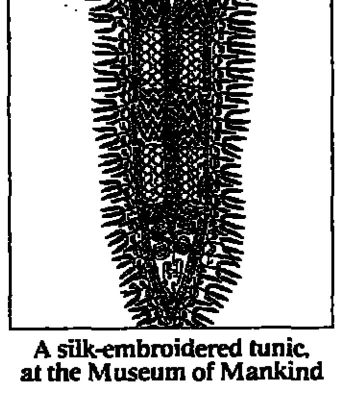
NABUCCO: Tim Albery's new staging for Welsh National Opera is apparently "controversial", which it is only if you insist on Verdi's *Risorgimento* melodrama being played in Victorian biblical frocks. Albery's reading is bold, up-to-the minute and right in-your-*face, and there's equally in-your-*face singing from Jonathan Summers, Janice Cairns, Willard White and the famous WNO chorus. Gareth Jones conducts.
Hippodrome Theatre, St Augustine's Parade, Bristol (0117-929 9444), Tues 10, Fri 13, 7.15pm. Ⓢ

MUSEUMS

John Russell Taylor

EL GRECO: The third in a series of touring exhibitions each centred on a major painting from the *National Gallery's collection* concerns itself with El Greco's *Christ Driving the Traders from the Temple*. It begins its tour in Bristol and, like the previous shows devoted to Le Douanier Rousseau and to Hobbema, showcases its centrepiece by comparing it with other versions of the same subject by the same painter, and studying it in relation to the artist's faith.
Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, Queens Road, Bristol (01272 *222000) daily 10am-5pm, until* November 26.

SECULAR AND SACRED/ DISPLAY AND MODESTY: To coincide with the African frenzy which engulfs Britain in October, and particularly with *Africa: The Art of a Continent* just round the corner at the Royal Academy, the Museum of Mankind has two inter-related shows on African *textiles*. The Ethiopian textiles are categorised as Secular and Sacred, since many of the pieces on show are vestments for the Coptic Church, intricately woven and embroidered.
Museum of Mankind, Burlington Gardens, W1 (0171 323 8043) Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm, Sun 2.30pm-6pm, until Spring 1996.



A silk-embroidered tunic, at the Museum of Mankind

GALLERIES

Richard Cork

AFRICA: THE ART OF A CONTINENT: A resounding title, and the Royal Academy's show certainly *does it justice*. Never before has Britain seen such an awesome and comprehensive array of treasures from the entire continent. Predynastic Egypt comes first, a surprise in this context. But the Egyptian feeling for stillness, and *acute sensitivity to materials*, carries through to the rest of the epic show. Wood soon takes over as the primary material, and the survey turns, above all, into a celebration of the carver's art. Severely simplified in form, but often tender in feeling, these eloquent statues and masks offer triumphant proof of the dictum "less is more". They also belong to a tradition of image-making that stretches back to the origins of human consciousness.
Royal Academy, *Piccadilly*, W1 (0171-439 7438), until January 21.

LUCIA NOGUEIRA: Brazilian-*born but resident* in England for nearly 20 years, Nogueira feels forever caught between two cultures and unable to make their different identities cohere. Instead of regarding her awareness of being foreign as a weakness, though, she mines it as a source of strength. Nogueira makes a virtue out of incompleteness. She is instinctively drawn to the fissures that occur when one line in your life is severed, leaving no clear link *with an alternative*. Her *new show* is full of unexpected juxtapositions — most notably downstairs, where an inviting oriental carpet is bordered at both ends by broken glass. *Mischief*, the name of a work using an old wooden chair and plastic bin liners, could stand as a title for the whole exhibition. For Nogueira loves to upset our expectations, whether she is placing castors under a sheet of glass or running a horizontal strip of adhesive tape *between a wall and an aluminium* flagpole. A tantalising, stimulating show.
Anthony Reynolds Gallery, 5 Dering Street, W1 (0171-491 0621), until October 14.

THEATRE

Benedict Nightingale

THREE TALL WOMEN: *Maggie* Smith returns to this theatre as the lady-ogre on the brink of the grave she created last year, but this time with Sara Kestelman as the same woman in cynical middle age and Samantha Bond representing her naive, hopeful youth. Both she and the play won awards on their last London outing, and deservedly so. Edward Albee's portrayal of a woman's life in microcosm is funny, touching, gruelling, stirring — and in almost every way it is more impressive than the work he and just about everyone else have produced in recent years.
Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736). Evenings, *Tues-Sat, 8pm; matinees, Wed, Sat,* 3pm.

Maggie Smith returns to Wyndhams as the lady-ogre

COMMUNICATING DOORS: Alan Ayckbourn's comedy-thriller opens in a world where London boroughs are at war with each other and Big Ben has been destroyed; yet this time he doesn't leave you feeling as if you have been beaten half to death with his *tickling stick*. The action skips from the future, 2014, back to 1994 and back again to 1974 as goodness retroactively overcomes evil, producing the sage of Scarborough's most optimistic conclusion to date. An enjoyable evening whose pleasures include a splendidly doughty Julia McKenzie.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5530), Evenings, Mon-Sat 7.30pm; matinees, Wed, Sat 3pm.

DANCE

John Percival

DANCE UMBRELLA: Starting Tuesday, London's annual contemporary Dance Festival presents five weeks of performances by 28 companies, groups or soloists in eight different venues. The first week includes two double bills of notable solo dancers at ICA. In between comes the British debut of Elizabeth's Streb's group Ringside from New York, seven athletes who crash into walls, mats and each *other as they fly through the air* (Greenwich Dance Agency). Festival details from Dance Umbrella (0181-741 5881).
Institute of Contemporary Arts, The Mall SW1 (0171-930 3647). **Greenwich Dance Agency**, Borough Hall, Royal Hill, London SE10, (0181-293 9741), 8pm.

THE ART OF TOUCH: Siobhan Davies's new work promises speed and intricacy in a confrontation of *classical and contemporary, set to* harpsichord by Scarlatti and a new score by the contemporary composer Matteo Farginom. With this, on a double bill, is Davies's *Wild Translations*, premiered earlier this year to a string quartet by Kevin Nolans.
The Dancehouse 10 Oxford Road, Manchester (0161-236 1677) tonight at 7.30pm; **Queen's Theatre** Hornchurch (01708 443333) Mon 8.30pm; **Wyvern Theatre**, Swindon (01793 524481) Thurs 8pm; then **Festival Theatre Edinburgh** (0131-529 6000), Oct 17; **Marlowe Theatre**, Canterbury (01227 787787), Oct 20, 21; **Sadlers Wells Theatre**, London (0171-713 6000), Oct 25,26.

ROCK

David Sinclair

THERAPY?: Ireland's Therapy? have proved themselves equally at ease whether playing to the headbangers at the Monsters of Rock festival or the suits at the Mercury Music Prize dinner at the Savoy hotel. Great hopes are being pinned on their latest single, a version of the old Hüsker Dü song *Diane*.
Brixton Academy, London SW9 (0171-924 9999), Oct 13; **Octagon**, *Sheffield (0114 2753300)*, Oct 26; **Newport Centre** (01633 259676), Oct 27; **Plymouth Pavilions** (01752 229922), Oct 28; **Guildhall**, Southampton (01703 632601), Oct 29; **Mayfair**, Newcastle (0191-232 3109), Oct 31; **Manchester Apollo** (0161-242 2560), Nov 2; **Aston Villa Leisure Centre**, Birmingham (0121-328 5377), Nov 3; **Barrowlands**, Glasgow (0131-557 6969), Nov 4.

JIMMY SOMERVILLE: After *the early successes* of Bronski Beat and the Communards, Jimmy Somerville's second solo album, *Dare To Love*, and a successful cover version of Susan Cadogan's hit *Hurts So Good*, have paved the way for his first live shows in more than three years.
Bristol University (0117 9289000), Oct 7; **Grand**, London *SW11* (0171-344 0044), Oct 12; **Junction**, Cambridge (01223 412600), Oct 13; **Waterfront**, Norwich (01603 632717), *Oct 14; Garage, Glasgow* (0141-332 1120), Oct 19; **Riverside**, Newcastle (0191-261 4386), Oct 20; **Leicester University** (0116 2557392), Oct 21.

[illegible]

Clive Davis

RUTH BROWN/VERNEL BAGNERIS: An R&B legend in the Fifties, Ruth Brown brings the Bessie Smith tradition of bawdy blues and vaudeville bang up to date. Her friend and erstwhile *collaborator Vernel Bagneris* — creator and star of the hit musical *One Mo' Time* — meanwhile enters the closing week of *Jelly Roll!*. Assisted by pianist Morten Gunnar Larsen, Bagneris brings the old rogue vividly to life.
Brown: Ronnie Scott's, Broad St, Birmingham (0121-643 4525), Mon 9 to Sat 14. **Ronnie Scott's**, Frith St, W1 (0171-439 0747) Mon 16 to Sat 28. **Bagneris: Theatre Royal**, Gerry Raffles Sq, E15 (0181-534 0310) Tonight to Sat Oct 14, 8pm. Thur matinee, 2pm.

TOMMY SMITH: It seems a long *time ago that the young Scottish* saxophonist was being fêted as one of the country's brightest hopes. Signed to Blue Note — a rare feat for a British musician — he never quite lived up to all the extravagant hopes. He is now gathering momentum again and his new quartet will play a collection of original compositions.
Sallis Benney Theatre, Brighton (01273 643010) Wed 11; **Band On The Wall**, Swan St, Manchester *(0161-832 0183)* Thur *12*; **Queen's Hall**, Clerk St, Edinburgh (0131-668 2019) Fri 13; **RSAMD**, Glasgow (0141-332 6633) Sat 14; **QEH**, South Bank, London (0171-928 8800) Sun 15.

WEST END THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London
■ **House full, returns only** ◪ **Some seats available** ☐ **Seats at all prices**

◪ **BURNING BLUE**. D M W Greer's strong play about homophobe witch-hunts among US Naval pilots. A gripping story powerfully told
Haymarket, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800) Today, 3pm and 8pm. Final performances Ⓢ

◪ **COMMUNICATING DOORS**: Alan Ayckbourn's ingenious time-travel play Julia McKenzie flees from a vengeful enemy via the doors of a hotel that take her forward and back a decade.
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5530) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

☐ **DEAD FUNNY** Belinda Lang, Kevin McNally and Sam Kelly in Terry Johnson's sharply funny play about comics *and some of their fans*
Savoy, The Strand WC2 (0171-836 8888) Mon-Fri 8pm Sat, 8.15pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm and Sat, 5pm Ⓢ

☐ **FUNNY MONEY**. Ray Cooney as a man who picks up the wrong briefcase and finds himself richer by £735,000 in used £50 notes The ensuing havoc involves Sylvia Sims, Henry McGee and Charlie Drake
Playhouse Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm. Ⓢ

◪ **GANGSTER NO 1** Bloodily persuasive view of London's underworld, with Peter Bowles frighteningly convincing as a hellish killer
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Today, 4pm and 8pm Ⓢ

■ **THE GLASS MENAGERIE**. Fine performances by Zoë Wanamaker, Claire Skinner, Ben Chaplin and Mark Dexter in Tennessee Williams's elegiac play of false hopes and shattered dreams.
Donmar Warehouse, Earlham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) Tue-Sat, 8pm, *mats Thurs, Sat and Sun, 4pm* Ⓢ

☐ **HENRY V**: Matthew Warchus's acclaimed Stratford production, with Iain Glen outstanding as the warrior king
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 *8891) Today, 2pm and 7.15pm.* Ⓢ

☐ **THE HOTHOUSE**: Tony Haygarth, Celia Imrie, John Shrapnel and Pinter himself in the transfer from Chichester of his long-buried play in which the staff *of a mental hospital scheme for* dominance

Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171-369 1731). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

◪ **JELLY ROLL!**: Likeable celebration of *the life and music of Jelly Roll Morton* Vernel Bagneris plays the man, Morten Gunnar Larsen plays the piano
Theatre Royal, Gerry Raffles Square, E15 (0181-534 0310) Mon-Sat, 8pm Ⓢ

Ten years of *Les Misérables* at The Palace

◪ **THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST**. Barbara Leigh-Hunt heads a fine cast in Terry Hands's attractive production of an immortal comedy.
Old Vic, Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 7616) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat, 3pm Ⓢ

■ **THE LETTER**: Neil Bartlett's excellent and shrewd production of Somerset Maugham's celebrated drama. Joanna Lumley in the Bette Davis role of the murderer and Tim Pigott-Smith as her defending lawyer
Lyric, King Street, Hammersmith, W6 (0181-741 2311). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm mat Sat, 2.30pm May be some seats for today's mat Ⓢ

◪ **MACBETH**. Mark Rylance's totally strange production with himself as king. Talk about weird sisters, weird, everything. Jane Horrocks plays the Queen
Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm. Ⓢ

☐ **OH! WHAT A BLOODY CIRCUS** Recently premiered at the *Man in the Moon*, Ionesco's fascinating play well *deserves this quick re-appearance. A man* in search of a peaceful retirement is endlessly thwarted by chatty visitors John Burton directs the Phantasmagoria company.
Riverside Studios, Crisp Road, W6 *(0181-741 2255). Tue-Sun, 8pm.* Ⓢ

☐ **RAT IN THE SKULL**. The Royal Court Classics Season opens with Ron Hutchinson's 1984 drama Tony Foyle's RUC detective grills Rufus Sewell caught *with explosives. Stephen Daldry directs*
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122) Now previewing, 7.30pm mat today, 3pm Opens Oct 11 Ⓢ

☐ **RED PRINCESS**: The story of Brezhnev's daughter Galina, whose love for the circus was obsessive and caused numerous scandals. Jonathan Holloway directs Nicholas McInerny's play for Red Shift.
Warehouse, Dingwall Road, East Croydon (0181-680 4060) Tue, 6.30pm, Wed-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 5pm. Until Oct 15

☐ **SIXTH BRITISH FESTIVAL OF VISUAL THEATRE**: Astonishingly diverse *body of work, British and foreign drama,* cabaret, puppet theatre, by companies performing for three days at most. Opens Oct 3 and continues throughout the month mostly in Studios 1 and 2
BAC, Lavender Hill, Battersea, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Ⓢ

◪ **LUCKY SODS** John Godber's latest *A couple win the lottery but does it make* them happy? Have a guess
Hampstead, Swiss Cottage Centre, NW3 (0171-722 9301), Mon-Sat, 8pm mat Sat 4pm Ⓢ

◪ **THE STEWARD OF CHRISTENDOM** Sebastian Barry's fine and moving memory-play. Donald McCann outstanding as the ex-chief of Dublin's police in the last years of British rule. Possibly the best play of 1995.
Royal Court, Sloane Square SW1 (0171-730 1745) *Mon-Sat, 7.30pm*

☐ **TAKING SIDES** Enthralling drama by Ronald Harwood based on the investigations of Furtwangler's alleged Nazi sympathies. Superb performance by *Daniel Massey as the conductor, with* Michael Pennington as his philistine accuser
Criterion, Piccadilly Circus, WC2 (0171-369 1747). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed and Sat 2.30pm

■ **THREE TALL WOMEN** Maggie Smith returns, this time with Sara Kestelman and Samantha Bond, in Edward Albee's fascinating play about the adoptive mother who withered his childhood Anthony Page directs.
Wyndhams, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-369 1736) Tue-Sat, 8pm mats Wed and Sat, 3pm

◪ **VOLPONE**. Michael Gambon subtle and fascinating in the title role, ably supported by *Simon Russell Beale* as his wily sidekick.
National (Olivier), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). Tonight-Tue, 7.15pm, mats today and Tue, 3pm Ⓢ

LONG RUNNERS

◪ **Blood Brothers** Phoenix (0171-867 1044) . . ☐ **Crazy for You**. Prince Edward (0171-734 8951) ☐ **Dead Guilty** Apollo (0171-494 5070) . ◪ **Dealer's Choice** Vaudeville (0171-836 9987) ◪ **Five Guys Named Moe** Albery (0171-369 1730) . . ◪ **Indian Ink**: Aldwych (0171-416 6003) ■ **Les Misérables** Palace (0171-434 0909) ■ **Starlight Express**. Apollo Victoria (0171-828 8665) . . . ■ **Sunset Boulevard** Adelphi (0171-344 0055) . . ☐ **The Woman in Black**. Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

NEW RELEASES

◆ **ASSASSINS** (15) Cat and mouse games between two contract killers. Reasonable action thriller, with Sylvester Stallone, Antonio Banderas, Julianne Moore Richard Donner directs
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

LAND AND FREEDOM (15) See *Critics' Choice, above*

MY FAMILY (14). Handsome but shallow saga of a Mexican family in Los Angeles, with Jimmy Smits and Esai Morales. Director, Gregory Nava.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** Ⓢ (0171-437 1234) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **THE NET** (12): New technology, but enjoyable old thrills, with Sandra Bullock as a computer expert in peril. Director, Irwin Winkler
MGM Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

POCAHONTAS (U). See Critics' Choice, above

CURRENT

◆ **APOLLO 13** (PG) The near-fatal moon mission of 1970. Splendid images, but conventional drama With Tom Hanks, Kevin Bacon and Ed Harris.
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **Empire** Ⓢ (0990 888990) **MGMs:** *Baker St (0171-935 9772)* **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Fulham Rd** (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

BATMAN FOREVER (PG). Overloaded sequel with Val Kilmer as Gotham's caped crusader, versus Jim Carrey and Tommy Lee Jones
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Warner** Ⓢ *(0171-437 4343)*

THE BIG SLEEP (PG): Classic 1940s thriller with Humphrey Bogart as Philip Marlowe and a famously impenetrable plot. With Lauren Bacall.
Curzon Phoenix (0171-369 1721)

BLUE JUICE (15): Breezy British romp with eccentric touches set among the Cornish surfing community. With Sean Pertwee, Catherine Zeta Jones Director, Carl Prechezer.
Odeon Mezzanine Ⓢ *(01426 915683)*

◆ **BRAVEHEART** (15): Overly blood-thirsty epic, with Mel Gibson as the 13th century Scottish rebel William Wallace. Gibson also directs.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGM Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

◆ **THE BRIDGES OF MADISON COUNTY** (12). Best-selling romantic tosh *given the kid-glove treatment by director* Clint Eastwood, who co-stars with Meryl Streep
MGMs: Fulham Rd (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss** *Cottage (01426 914098)* **Ritzy** *(0171-737 2121)* **Screen/Baker St** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

BUTTERFLY KISS (18): Amanda *Plummer and Saskia Reeves litter the* motorways with corpses. Arresting but dubious British freak show, directed by Michael Winterbottom.
MGM Piccadilly (0171-437 3561) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121), today only

◆ **CARRINGTON** (18): Stumbling account of an odd Bloomsbury romance, dominated by Jonathan Pryce's Lytton Strachey. With Emma Thompson as the painter Dora Carrington Writer-director, *Christopher Hampton.*
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **Gate** Ⓢ (0171-727 4043) **MGM Fulham Road** Ⓢ (0171-370 2636) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** Ⓢ (0171-435 3366)

◆ **CASPER** (PG): Jumbled vehicle for the bland character of Casper the friendly ghost. Christina Ricci and Bill Pullman star alongside the special effects.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) **Odeon Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098)

Plaza (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

DOLORES CLAIBORNE (18): Powerful Stephen King adaptation, with Kathy Bates as the wife and mother twice accused of murder. With Jennifer Jason Leigh. Director, Taylor Hackford.
Ritzy, Sat only (0171-737 2121) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

Sandra Bullock goes hi-tech in *The Net*

COLD FEVER (15): A Japanese visitor journeys across Iceland: wonderful, droll film from director Fridrik Thór Fridriksson, packed with stunning images.
Everyman, Sunday only Ⓢ (0171-435 1525) **MGM Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Notting Hill Coronet** Ⓢ (0171-727 6705)

◆ **DIE HARD WITH A VENGEANCE** (15): Detective Bruce Willis has another bad day. Unfocused, profligate sequel, with Jeremy Irons and Samuel L. Jackson.
MGM Trocadero Ⓢ (0171-434 0031) *Odeon Mezzanine* Ⓢ *(01426 915683)* **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **FORGET PARIS** (12): Can Billy Crystal and Debra Winger make their love affair stick? Do we care? A bumpy romantic comedy.
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

FUNNY BONES (15): Comedy and tears with a showbusiness family. Over-ambitious film from *Hear My Song* director Peter Chelsom, with an eye-grabbing turn from Lee Evans. With Oliver Platt, Jerry Lewis and Leslie Caron.
Barbican Ⓢ (0171-638 8891) **Clapham Picture House** (0171-498 3323) **Odeons: Haymarket** (01426 915353) **Kensington** (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343)

THE QUICK AND THE DEAD (15): Gunslinger Sharon Stone versus bad man Gene Hackman. Dull and preposterous.
UCI Whiteleys Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

◆ **THE USUAL SUSPECTS** (18): Complex, riveting thriller about the wages of crime: a strong cast includes Stephen Baldwin and Gabriel Byrne.
Gate Ⓢ (0171-727 4043) **MGMs: Fulham Road** Ⓢ (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Screen/Baker Street** (0171-935 2772) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** Ⓢ (0171-437 4343) **Watermans** (0181-568 1176)

◆ **WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING** (PG): Sandra Bullock poses as the fiancée of a comatose hunk. Agreeable vehicle for a refreshing new star. With Bill Pullman and Peter Gallagher. Director, Jon Turteltaub.
MGM Shaftesbury Avenue (0171-836 6279) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Mezzanine** Ⓢ (01426 915683) **UCI Whiteleys** Ⓢ (0171-792 3332)

THE YOUNG POISONER'S HANDBOOK (15): Assured but nasty black comedy about a schoolboy poisoner from the London suburbs. A first feature by Benjamin Ross.
Lumiere (0171-836 0691) **MGM: Tottenham Ct Rd** (0171-636 6148)

هكذا من الاصل

Continued from page 1

somewhat under-prepared for a solitary descent. Foolishly assuming that there would be one of those kidney-shaped things beginners stick between their legs to transport them back to the top of the nursery slopes, I snowploughed gingerly down. And down, and down. For the only ski lifts encountered were two or three-seaters which disappeared into the mists of the uppermost peaks of the French Alps.

I abandoned all hope, and my skis, and decided to walk back up the mountain. Even this was a disaster. There are two parallel roads which flank the slopes. Naturally, I chose the one which terminates at the car park at the bottom of the resort, rather than the one which curls back up to the nursery runs. Between the two is a deepish divide studded with rocks which would be murder to cross even without the impediments of skis and boots and a restrictive padded *pamper-suit*.

I arrived back, two hours later, just as the boys were finishing their class. They were grinning beatifically. The only tears before bedtime were their mother's.

Each decade of my life has included a failed skiing holiday. When I was six, my parents took me to the Italian Alps. My mother assures me that it is beautiful. I can only remember falling down in the snow, and waiting forever until some stranger hauled me up. At 20, I went skiing with Bruce and his family, who had a flat in Tignes — a resort which is brilliant for experienced skiers, but no good for beginners. The vertiginous decline of its nursery slope was so petrifying that I was reduced to tobogganing down it on my bottom.

At 30, there was a skiing holiday in the aptly named Perisher in New South Wales. This was a nightmare. The slopes were full of gung-ho, day-glo Australians trying out the latest snow craze — Chaplinesque arabesques were all the rage that year — mowing down any novices who got in their way.

This fourth attempt, a few years away from my 40th birthday, marked a new determination to discover the elusive charm of skiing. I do know one or two women who are excellent skiers. But most of the couples in our circle conform to the same sexist mould with which I am all too familiar: the men pine after the early-morning assault-course challenge of the skiing holiday, while the women insist on the languid summer break.

Because the sun has triumphed so overwhelmingly over the snow in our household, it seemed only right to redress the balance. The sense of fair play was bolstered by our sons having reached the age when they might conceivably enjoy wooshing around the slopes. So off we went to Val Thorens, within skiing distance of Tignes and Val d'Isère, promoted by the tourist board as "*la plus haute station d'Europe*", offering "the snow of your dreams", and dismissed by *Le Figaro* the week before our arrival, to the dismay of the locals, as the McDonald's of ski resorts.

It is true that you wouldn't go to Val Thorens for old-world charm or chocolate-box prettiness. It is not exactly ugly, but it certainly has the ersatz flavour of a purpose-built resort. The first ski lift was open as recently as 1971. Now, in the high season, there are 45,000 skiers an hour in the Val Thorens area.

There are three-star and four-star hotels, some of which have been sympathetically designed with wooden balconies and triangular roofs, a sports complex and several *mini-shopping malls*, where you can buy weird skiwear by Moschino and even wierder Neapolitan-coloured confectionery. I didn't spot an actual McDonald's, but I heard the karaoke ("Woi, woi, woi ... Deelilaagh") and steered well clear of El Gringo's Tex-Mex restaurant and the Frog and Roast Beef pub.

Le Sherpa, where we stayed, is a family-run enterprise and was one of the first hotels in the resort. It is small and has a cosy, slightly down-at-heel atmosphere. The food is excellent (the chef, the owner's fresh-faced son, has returned home after honing his skills in restaurants in Lyons, Paris and — less predictably — Canada), and the staff made a tremendous fuss of our children. On the downside, *Le Sherpa* is quite a trek from the nursery slopes (hence, perhaps, its name), and the woman behind the desk had a double-first from the Academy of Grim-Faced Receptionists.

But what of the skiing? I woke up on day two filled with gloom and foreboding after the fiasco of the previous day. We decided to take our holiday rep's advice and book our children into the Mini Ski Club from nine to five. Luckily, the boys had a ball. After lunch, Tom graduated to the higher slopes and began to fancy himself as an *aficionado* of chair lifts. Darcy and his fellow four-year-olds looked like a school of performing baby penguins as they skied through a wavy line of coloured hoops, arms clasped tightly to their sides, gaining confidence through repetition.

This was our first breakthrough. Tom and Darcy enjoyed being in the company of children their own age, although some of their classmates wailed with the cold.

We were able to leave the boys' skis, sticks and boots at the school, which relieved much of the burden of our sherpa duties. They enjoyed their lunches, chocolate biscuits at the end of each day, the sense of making progress on the snow, and the glory of being presented with a shiny badge of a teddy on skis at the end of the week.

Bruce and I settled into a comfortable routine of skiing together in the morning, and taking individual lessons in the afternoon. My own breakthrough came, strangely enough, when the weather conditions deteriorated from crisp and sunny to white-out Siberian, the temperatures falling half way through the week to a teeth-chattering low of 22 below zero. My cheeks frosted over, and Bruce's nose could have made a passable tourist attraction: "Wonder at these amazing nasal stalactites!"

Off the ski lift, there was no distinguishing line between sky and slope. In this white blanket, it was possible to *feel* the steepness of the incline more keenly than usual, but not to *see* how far there was to fall. Robbed of this sense, all

'The only tears before bedtime were their mother's'

my fears miraculously evaporated. The lessons paid off, as I concentrated on turning and bending, turning and bending, heeding the instructor's words to look upon the body as two separate halves: waist, hips and thighs belonged to the ascent; chest, shoulders and head to the descent.

And, oh, the delirious, liberating pleasure of skiing through powder snow in this bright invisibility. Suddenly to become weightless is like the relief of swimming during pregnancy. Do it slowly and it feels like you're floating through the icy air. Do it fast and it feels like you're catching a wave, with the same yelping exhilaration as you shoot thorugh a tube of water.

And that was it, my mini-epiphany. Fourth time lucky, I understood what all the fuss was about. Perhaps I had earned my pay-off for all the struggle and discomfort, the sight of those ghastly "amusing" woolly hats (harlequins, rabbits and dinosaurs at Val Thorens) and the *après-ski* bonhomie.

If there was only one holiday in a year, I'd still rather be a beach-bum than a snow bunny. But I won't wait another ten years before returning to the slopes.

Cover picture of Ginny Dougary and family pictures on this page by TONY WHITE

Bruce rakes out packed snow from Tom's boot soles, as Darcy and Ginny await the off

It's all downhill for the family on the slopes at Val Thorens . . . Later the well-muffled boys were booked into the Mini Ski Club, and had a ball

☐ The author travelled to Val Thorens as a guest of Ski Thomson.

☐ Seven nights' half-board at the Hotel Le Sherpa costs from £490 per person (low season), including return flights and transfers.

☐ On selected dates, children up to 12 can travel at half price; pre-bookable ski and boot hire for them is free throughout the season.

☐ Brochures from travel agents, or call Ski Thomson (0171-707 9000).

More skiing, pages 4,5,17

International Ski Show, October 12-15. Hotline: 01203 717897

Ruth Gledhill attends the rededication of St Mark's, Regent's Park

Resurrected after the fire

THE EXQUISITE sound of the organ leading us into the processional hymn, *All my hope on God is founded*, put paid for the time being to remaining doubts about the resurrection. For those who argue that miracles never occur in the Church of England, a recommended cure must be to visit a place such as this, rebuilt and restored after suffering one of the growing number of arson attacks on churches. The arsonist, planting fires in the basement and aisle of St Mark's, Regent's Park, north London, almost put paid to the Romantic English organ designed by Harold Darke. But with every single stop and pipe painstakingly cleaned and repaired by Walker's of Brandon in Suffolk, it surely sounds better than new.

This church, opposite London Zoo and behind a stone porch blackened by London grime, was first gutted in the wartime blitz and reopened in 1957, surviving until the attack last Remembrance Sunday.

From the outside it seems nothing extraordinary, but to step inside is to feel transported into a medieval Italian Roman Catholic church with white walls, bright-coloured stained glass, a statue of the Virgin Mary and two gold Ninian Comper reredoses.

Regent's Park is an expensive area to live in, and visitors should not be intimidated by the members of the congregation who pull up in Jaguars and chat on mobile phones outside the churchyard before the service. The church has 120 people on its electoral roll, but for this dedication service, to celebrate completion of the £220,000 restoration, the vicar invited many of the couples who had married there but moved away to raise families.

There were more than 250 in church, and I sat in front of a former Nigerian head of state and beside the son of churchwarden Peter Wrigley, who read the lesson — appropriately from the Revelation of John the Divine — where we heard of the new Jerusalem, "prepared as a bride adorned for her husband". There shall be no more death, sorrow, crying nor pain, we heard. "Behold, I make all things new."

Church members are still seeking to raise £45,000 toward the repairs, all but £90,000 of which were paid for by the Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, which insures more than 90 per cent of Anglican churches in England. Last year, the EIG paid out £5.1 million on arson damage and had already paid out £3.25 million this year. At least 17 Anglican churches a day suffer a criminal attack of some sort in England, including theft and other criminal damage as well as arson. One in three churches can expect a criminal attack of some sort this year. The EIG is so concerned about the growing number of arson attacks that it has organised a special seminar to address the issue in London next month.

Tom Devonshire Jones, the vicar, in gold chasuble with dark gold cross embroidered on the back, was served throughout by two acolytes and a thurifer, who censed both gospel and congregation, while, through the smoke, the choir of women and men in blue and black enchanted us with Schubert's Mass in G. Surprisingly, given the church's need for funds, our collection was to be given away, to the diocese of Antsiranana in Madagascar. "After all the attention we have had to give to ourselves it seems appropriate that on this occasion of thanksgiving we should give away," explained the vicar at the end of his sermon.

Mr Devonshire Jones, who is an expert on the relationship between art, theology and church, and director of the Art and Christianity Enquiry, is relieved to have his church open again. He said afterwards: "Like most parish clergy I have a love-hate relationship with the building. I know it well but it is a great drag on energy, particularly over the last year. So now I'm looking forward to being a pastor again."

St Mark's, Regent's Park Road, London NW1 7TX (0171-586 1694).

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ *A one to five star guide to the service* ★

☐ **VICAR:** The Rev Tom Devonshire Jones

☐ **ARCHITECTURE:** Built 1851 in early-English style.★★★★

☐ **SERMON:** On the theme of renewal.★★★

☐ **MUSIC:** Ten superb professional singers, uplifting solos from soprano Harriet Johnson and wonderful traditional hymns with brass fanfares played by I Trompetti di San Marco, arranged by organist Bernard Barker.★★★★★

☐ **LITURGY:** The rarely-used but beautiful Anglican Missal, similar in language and style to the *Book of Common Prayer 1662* but predating it by a few years.★★★★★

☐ **AFTER-SERVICE CARE:** Tea, sandwiches and cakes served at the back of the church.★★★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Risen from the ashes amid the smoke and incense.★★★★

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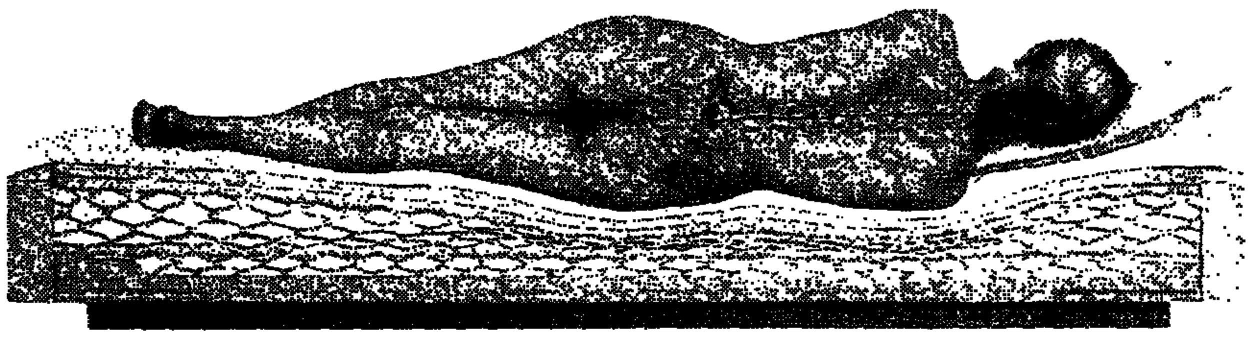

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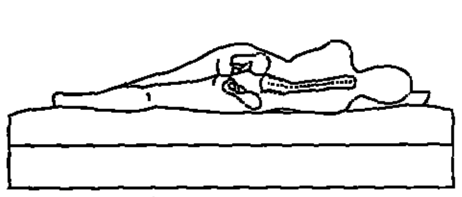

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SNOW SPECIAL: **Doug Sager** reports on top resorts for non-skiers, on independent ski consultants and ...

Remembrance of things piste

It's hard to imagine now, after one of the hottest summers in centuries, but come the dark and damp days of December, a winter holiday of high-altitude sunshine will be just the ticket. Don't dismiss the idea just because you don't — and never intend to — ski.

Swiss, Swedes, Austrians and Italians may take home the gold in World Cup races, but on the terraces the British can bronze with the best of them. None of them would even be there had we not invented the winter holiday. The story starts in the summer of 1864, in the pension Kulm at St Moritz. Four sober-suited English gentlemen were bemoaning their return to a British winter. Their host, Johannes Badrutt, who went on to found the Cresta Run and the Badrutt Palace dynasty, made the Englanders an offer: free travel, food and accommodation if sunshine or snow failed to meet expectations. The four British families came for Christmas, and stayed until Easter. In Victorian bonnets and bowlers they skated, sledged and took winter walks.

Today's non-skiing activities, for spectators and adrenaline addicts alike, have expanded into the air and under the ice. But the essential attractions remain: sun-sparkled snow, blue skies and the sensation of sunshine burning into skin cooled by the slightest movement into the still, shimmering air.

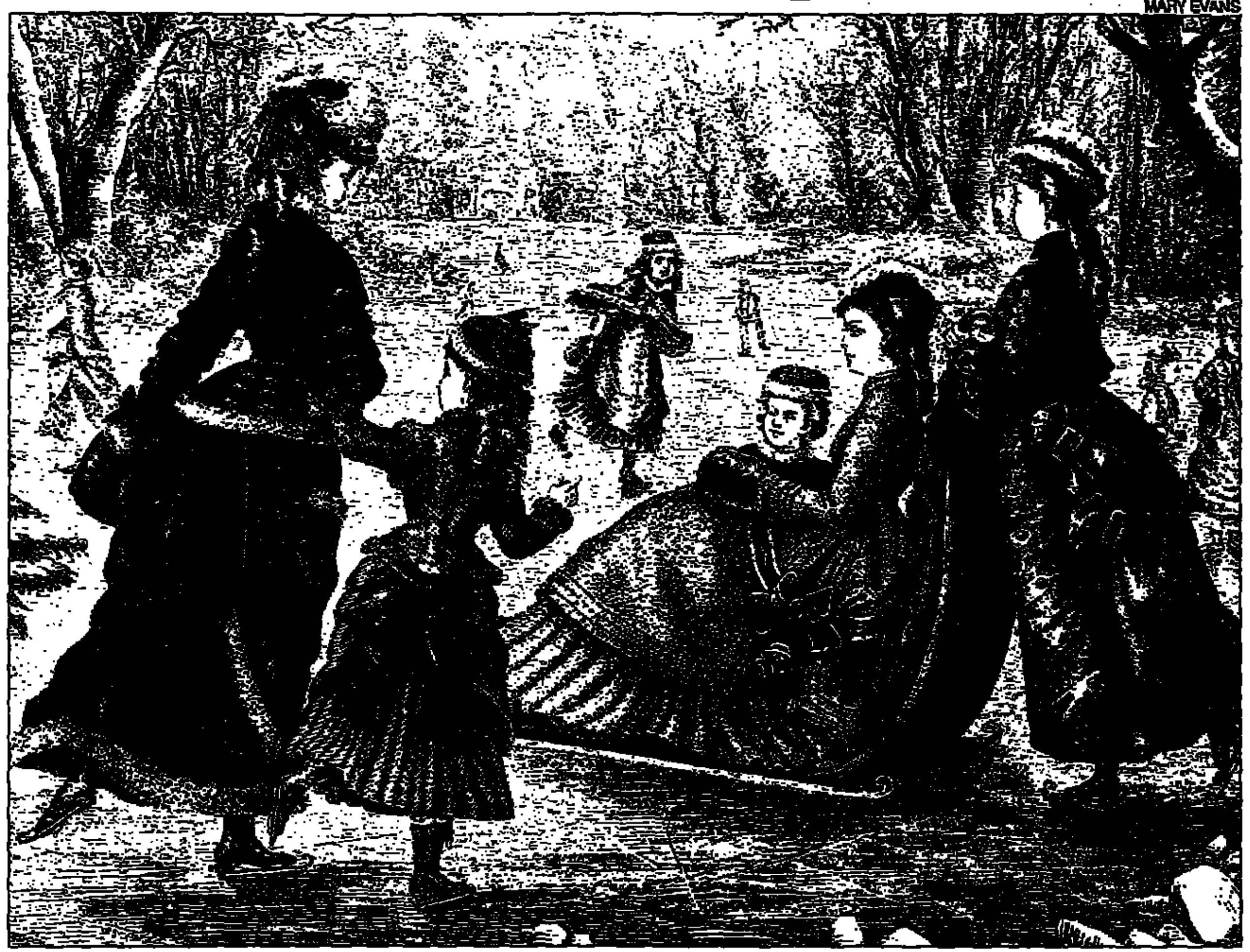
The concept of a winter holiday, as opposed to a skiing holiday, has suffered with the growth of the package tour market. Non-skiers are portrayed as the wallflowers of the winter world. A similar marketing divide has opened between ski resorts, which have little else to offer, and classic winter retreats ideal for non-skiers.

Val d'Isère and the Trois Vallées resorts of Courchevel and Meribel are *the* top destinations for better-than-average British skiers going to France, as are Verbier in Switzerland and St Anton in Austria. All have vast ski networks interconnected with other resorts, guaranteed high-altitude skiing and testing terrain. Despite their expense and the notoriety of their nightclubs, none of these ski resorts can claim to charm the non-skier.

The first winter retreat, St Moritz, venue of two Winter Olympics, remains the standard all winter resorts must aspire to. Home of the Cresta Run, favoured by what locals call a "champagne climate" and blessed with a plenitude of grand old palace-style hotels, St Moritz has it all, from shopping to scenery, gourmet dining to rustic family inns, polo on ice to sleigh rides.

The shortlist of other great winter resorts must include Kitzbühel in Austria, Chamonix in France, Cortina d'Ampezzo in Italy, and of course, Zermatt. Inevitably, a classic winter resort is one which existed before skiing, and one which typically draws as many visitors in summer as in winter.

It is awe for nature and affection for the ambience that made the classic resorts, and continues to make them rewarding for winter visitors, no matter how much they dislike skiing and skiers. In Zermatt, it is the Matterhorn, in Cortina, the jagged pink hues of the Dolomites which make hearts flutter. Chamonix dominates the Alps not only with the flat dome of Mont Blanc and its *aiguilles*, but also because of its reputation as the world capital of mountaineering.


MARY EVANS

The way it was: the genteel pastime of skating and sledging, as depicted in the late 19th century

Kitzbühel's mountains are gentler, but their setting among meadows contributes to an impression of majesty, most dramatically in the nearby Wilden Kaiser massif. And no town in the Alps has more charming architecture, or a more lively café society.

Being in the Alps in winter is a tonic. Getting there is an adventure even infants and the infirm can enjoy: between resorts on the Glacier Express journey from Zermatt to St Moritz, on the Orient Express to St Anton, or up to Europe's highest railway station on the Jungfraujoch cog-wheel train from Grindelwald or Wengen through the middle of the Eiger to 3,454 metres.

Château d'Oex, Crans Montana and Arosa are among resorts with winter hot-air balloon excursions. Families can also enjoy the groomed sledge runs, mostly in Switzerland and Austria, served by cable car and often illuminated at night. Golf tournaments on snow have long been held in St Moritz and Crans Montana. But now the Swiss have opened the world's first all-winter snow and ice golf course, in Disentis.

Hard-core extreme sports have gone far beyond skiing. Zermatt this winter will offer the world's highest bungee jump, from the Klein Matterhorn cable car at 3,800 metres. Val d'Isère invites divers to plunge into a frozen lake and walk upside down on the undersurface of the ice. Snowrafting, barrelling down the piste at 60mph in a rubber raft braked by parachute, is an adventure option in Cortina, Sölden and Engelberg, among other resorts. But winter canyoning, sliding down frozen waterfalls in a wet suit, is limited to an area around Verbier.

Older hands may want to save their heads for the challenge of schnapps, *grolla*, grappa and *glühwein* — and their stomachs for the struggle with fondue, *raclette* and *rösti*. Wiser winter visitors will know one need do nothing at all — however posh the resort. In the Alps, any balcony or terrace will do.

A helping hand to the slopes

THE author's choice of the top five all-round winter resorts and the top tour operators to each resort:

1) St Moritz: Swiss Travel Service (01992 456 123)
2) Zermatt: Ski Scott Dunn (0181-767 0202)
3) Cortina: Powder Byrne (0181-871 3300)
4) Kitzbühel: Made to Measure (01243 533333)
5) Chamonix: Collineige (01276 24262)

☐ For details of horse racing and polo on ice, golf tournaments, gourmet festival and the Cresta Run, telephone the St Moritz tourist office (0041 82 33147).

☐ For information about the the Glacier Express and Jungfraujoch railways, telephone the Swiss tourist office (0171-734 1921).

☐ For reservations and a winter rulebook for the snow and ice golf course in Disentis, Switzerland, telephone 0041 81 947 5822.

☐ High adventure: hot-air ballooning festival and daily rides in Chateau d'Oex, telephone 0041 29 477 88; bungee jumping on the Klein Matterhorn in Zermatt, 0041 28 672520; ice-diving in Val d'Isère, 0033 7906 2140; winter canyoning with mountain guide Thierry Gasser in Verbier, 0041 26 311630.

Free advice from experts

SELECTING a ski holiday can be more trying than that first day on the T-bar. For budget skiers, beginners and families the choice is even more difficult. None of us has the time to wade through the 200-odd ski catalogues, or the expertise to evaluate resorts.

But there are people who will do the homework for free. Independent ski consultants visit the parts travel agents never see. Typically, they will have worked several seasons as chalet personnel or resort reps. They know when "cosy" means sleeping in a closet, and when "scenic" means halfway up the Eiger. The consultants advertise their independence from mass market tour operators. Instead they book with anywhere from 50-80 different operators.

High street travel agents can't be bothered to search out specialist operators who may have only one chalet in one resort. Ski consultants make their money from commissions, paid at the same rate as travel agents.

The three main ski consultants are Alpine Answers, Ski Solutions and Snow Line. Alpine Answers is the smallest, but guarantees that one of its three experienced partners will always be at the end of the phone. Ski Solutions claims to be the largest.

High street travel agents have reduced the number of brochures on their shelves, favouring the mass market operators. But Snow Line has a 24-hour line for free delivery of up to four brochures on 01858 434500 for US resorts, and 01858 433633 for the Alps.

Ski consultants accuse many travel agents of steering customers to a limited number of mass-market tour operators. Obviously, in choosing a ski consultant, it is interesting to ask exactly how much business each consultant does with a specific tour operator. Snow Line and Alpine Answers declined to answer. Ski Solutions said its biggest volume operator is Bladon Lines, at 10 per cent. In other words, 90 per cent of Ski Solutions' bookings were spread around the other 56 operators it does business with. The consultants are used to dealing with odd requests. Ski Solutions takes as routine bookings for honeymoons, ski weddings and helicopters. But the staff was stymied by a booking for "two adults, three dogs". Snow Line was asked for a ski resort with no lifts for a client with vertigo. It took that in its stride.

Ski consultants understand the small print about single supplements, surcharges and snow guarantees. They can calculate the discounts for groups and early booking in their heads. And they will warn against tour operator dodges, like trying to force holiday insurance on clients who already have their own.

Most consultant advice is common sense, but skiers who have neither the time nor experience to double check brochure descriptions of resorts and accommodation will be grateful for a guardian angel.

● *Alpine Answers (0181-871 4656); Ski Solutions (0171-602 9900); Snow Line (01858 433633).*

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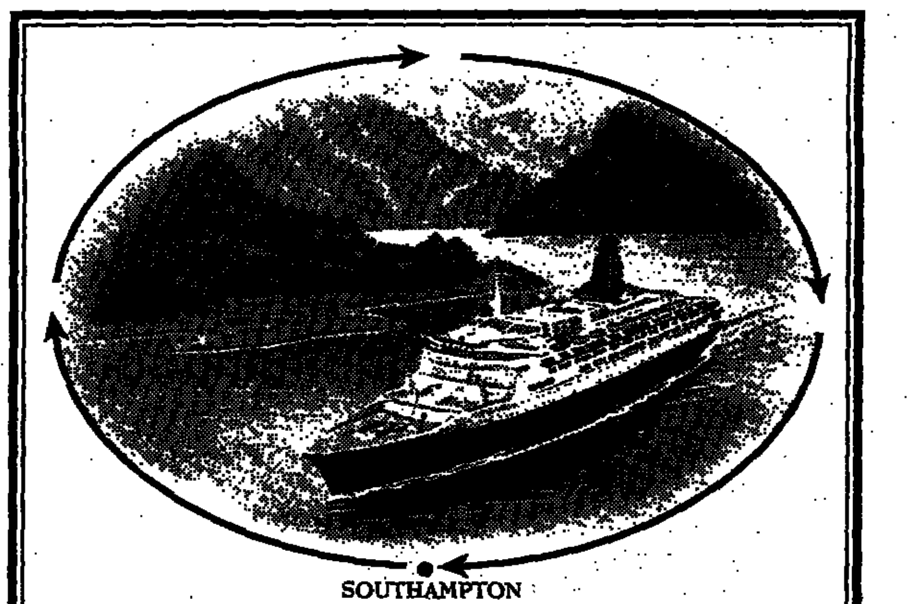

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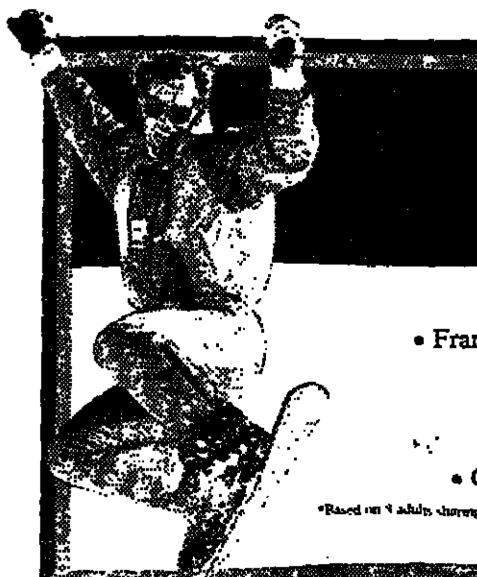

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…how 50 tour operators fared in our ratings poll carried out by experts and based on price and satisfaction

Good ski guide from Alps to Andes

The ski season is here. Two snowfalls reaching down to village level at 1,600m have hit the Alps, and an avalanche of brochures is rolling through letterboxes. Where should the skier go, and with which company? How to choose from the 200 tour operators?

All previous attempts at rating have relied on feedback from clients. Such surveys can be distorted by a handful of disgruntled or otherwise inspired letter writers. Our panel, made up of travel agents, tourist offices and ski consultants, has tried a more independent approach. Most importantly, we have separated the two conflicting criteria that affect how good skiers feel about their holidays: how they rate the price and the service.

We have categorised operators according to destination: the mainstream carriers who go everywhere; smaller firms which have resorts in several countries; those specialising in one country or region; specialists in one or two resorts; and the "boutique" operators, who focus on a single market.

Small firms specialising in everything from children to cross-country to Christian holidays continue to challenge the mainstream operators.

With a few exceptions, such as First Choice, Airtours and Kuoni, where company policy forbids releasing such statistics, each entry includes the following information: the number of clients carried and where they go, the company's most popular resort, and the average price per head per holiday sold.

For mainstream firms with huge sales in North America, this average price is not an accurate measure of price-competitiveness. Crystal, for example, carries almost 10,000 skiers to North America at an average £755. But this exaggerates Crystal's overall average per holiday sold compared with firms limited to the cheaper Alpine countries, where Crystal's average price is £410.

That is why we polled a group of travel agents, tourist offices and ski consultants for their professional and confidential assessment of how price-competitive each operator is on the entire range of its holidays.

The same panel, with input from selected resort directors and national tourist offices, rated each firm for complaints and general client satisfaction with the services provided.

Each tour operator is scored on the basis of a maximum 50 points in each category of price and satisfaction, then totalled.

Ski Peak, a small firm in a scarcely known resort, was the winner on combined points. Inghams, one of the longest-established ski holiday companies, outscored all its mass-market rivals by far, and beat the specialists to come second in the combined league.

Interski, a group and budget specialist in the Aosta valley of Italy, won top marks for keeping prices low.

Clients flying to Canada for helicopter-skiing with Powder Skiing North America and those tucked up in the lavish chalets of The Ski Company tie in ratings for the most satisfied skiers.

[illegible]

Crystal (0181-399 5144): 85,000 skiers, equally divided between chalets and hotels in 108 resorts around the Alps, North America, Eastern Europe and Scandinavia. Val d'Isère. £375. American ski weddings and snowboard escorts a speciality.

Price 37. Satisfaction 26. Total 63.

First Choice (0161-745 7000): trading last year as Ski Enterprise, 65 resorts in nine countries. Flaine. £337. Martin Bell ski clinics in Kitzbühel. Claims to offer the lowest price guarantee.

Price 37. Satisfaction 33. Total 70.

Skibound (01273 696960): 68,000 skiers, many school groups to 40 resorts in Austria, France, Italy and Canada. Les Deux Alpes. £375. France on special offer for holidays in January.

Price 45. Satisfaction 31. Total 76.

Inghams (0181-780 4444): new owners of Bladon Lines, 66,000 skiers mostly to hotels, nine countries, including North America and Eastern Europe, 82 resorts. Obergurgl. £480. Skiing expertise dating back to 1934.

Price 43. Satisfaction 44. Total 87.

Thomson (0171-707 9000): 65,000 skiers, 80 per cent in hotels and self-catered flats, newly expanded 1996 programme to eight countries, including North America and Spain, 71 resorts. Val Thorens. £370.

Price 37 Satisfaction 36. Total 73.

Neilson (0113 239 4555): 45,000 skiers to 50 resorts in ten countries, including North America and Eastern Europe. Sauze d'Oulx. £376. Inventors of the resort piste escort.

Price 29. Satisfaction 30. Total 59.

Airtours (01706 260000): 37 resorts in six countries, including North America. Sauze d'Oulx. £329. Ski weddings in Austria.

Price 33. Satisfaction 17. Total 50.

[illegible]

Skiworld (0171-602 4826): 12,057 skiers to 27 resorts, 14 in North America. Méribel. £325. Price-conscious chalet holidays in the Alps, increasing ambitions in America.

Price 30. Satisfaction 26. Total 56.

Club Med (0171-581 1161): 5,000 skiers, 19 resorts, including Japan and America. Chamonix. £750. Wine, beer, full-board, lift pass, lessons and child-minding all inclusive.

Price 40. Satisfaction 35. Total 75.

Ski Partners (0117 925 3545): 15,000 skiers to 40 resorts in the Alps and Canada. Saalbach. £400. Good value hotels.

Price 33. Satisfaction 30. Total 63.

Bladon Lines (0181-780 8800): 23,000 skiers to 20 resorts throughout the Alps and North America. Val d'Isère. £430. The classic chalet company.

Price 23. Satisfaction 26. Total 49.

Mark Warner (0171-393 3131): 9,942 skiers to chalets and "chalhotels" in seven of the top Alpine resorts. Courchevel. £510.

Price 37. Satisfaction 39. Total 76.

The Ski Company (0171-730 9600): 1,250 cosseted clients to luxury chalets, six resorts, including Vail and Klosters. Val d'Isère. £800.

Price 31. Satisfaction 47. Total 78.

Ski Equipe (0161-440 0010): 1,029 skiers to chalets in five top resorts, including North America. Courchevel. £700.

Price 32. Satisfaction 31. Total 63.

Powder Byrne (0181-871 3300): 1,200 skiers to hotels in seven upmarket resorts. Flims. £1,000. Top-rated off-programme.

Price 26. Satisfaction 33. Total 59.

Ski Scott Dunn (0181-767 0202): 2,000 skiers, five resorts; *Courchevel. £600. Five-star comfort* from Zermatt to Jackson Hole.

Price 31. Satisfaction 37. Total 68.

Ski Total (0181-948 6922): 3,800 skiers to chalets in Austria, France and Zermatt. St Anton. £400. The only UK firm with a chalet in Lech, the Royals' favourite resort.

Price 39. Satisfaction 42. Total 81.

Chalet World (01952 840462): 2,700 skiers to chalets in six of the most popular Austrian, Swiss and French resorts. Val d'Isère. £457.

Price 43. Satisfaction 21. Total 64.

REGIONAL SPECIALISTS

Balkan Holidays (0171-493 8612): 10,000 cost-conscious skiers to Eastern Europe. Pamporovo in Bulgaria. £250. Free lift passes.

Price 30. Satisfaction 21. Total 51.

Swiss Travel Service (01992 456123): 10,000 skiers to hotels in 18 Swiss resorts. Wengen. £800. Helicopter *from Geneva to Zermatt.*

Price 33. Satisfaction 43. Total 76.

Kuoni (01306 742 500): 18 Swiss hotel resorts. Zermatt. £590.

Price 37. Satisfaction 33. Total 70.

NSR Travel (0171-930 6666): 1,000 skiers to hotels in Norway. Voss. £700.

Price 39. Satisfaction 29. Total 68.

Ski the American Dream (0181-552 1201): 4,000 skiers to 32 North American resorts, including Alaska. Breckenridge. £900. American pioneers.

Price 37. Satisfaction 37. Total. 74.

Ski Independence (0171-713 5337): 2,000 skiers, 22 North American destinations. Breckenridge. £1,000. Crested Butte ski clinics with Martin Bell.

Price 40. Satisfaction 33. Total 73.

Frontier Ski (0171-839 1627): 600 adventurous skiers to ten of the best resorts in western Canada. Whistler. £900. Snowcat skiing.

Price 45. Satisfaction 35. Total 80.

Passage to South America (0171-602 9899): took 12 diehard summer skiers to the Andes. Las Lenas, Chile. £1,466.

Price 31. Satisfaction 37. Total 68.

RESORT SPECIALISTS

Snowbizz (01778 341455): 2,500 family skiers to Puy St Vincent. £299. On-piste nursery with ski school.

Price 38. Satisfaction 21. Total 59.

Finlays (01835 830562): 1,850 skiers in chalets in Val d'Isère and Courchevel. £455. Popular with the less-aggressive intermediate skiers.

Price 22. Satisfaction 31. Total 53.

Snowline Holidays (0181-870 4807): 945 skiers to Portes du Soleil. Champoussin. £445. Free teddy bears.

Price 29. Satisfaction 31. Total 60.

Ski Aval (0033 7906 9561): 300 skiers to piste-side chalets in Val d'Isère. £400, excluding flights.

Price 41. Satisfaction 33. Total 74.

Collineige (01276 24262): 1,100 skiers to the best chalets in the Chamonix valley. £650. Agents for Chamonix mountain guides.

Price 35. Satisfaction 43. Total 78.

YSE (0181-871 5117): 4,000 skiers to *20 upmarket chalets in Val d'Isère.* £575.

Price 41. Satisfaction 45. Total 86.

Ski Verbier (0171-738 0878): 190 skiers to one of Verbier's best catered chalets. £470.

Price 32. Satisfaction 36. Total 68.

Ski Peak (01252 794 941): 1,100 skiers to Vaujany, France. £475. Queueless hideaway area brings back romance of skiing.

Price 48. Satisfaction 46. Total 94.

Meriski (01451 844788): 2,200 skiers in 14 of the most comfortable chalets in Méribel. £600.

Price 39. Satisfaction 45. Total 84.

Le Ski (01484 548996): 2,250 chalet skiers; enjoying 13 years of experienced ski-guiding around Courchevel. £500.

Price 33. Satisfaction 43. Total 76.

Premiere Neige (01430 410609): 150 skiers to two piste-side chalets in Val d'Isère. £700. Haute cuisine, pre-dinner drinks, and port.

Price 40. Satisfaction 31. Total 71.

SINGLE FOCUS SPECIALISTS

Made to Measure (01243 533333): 2,000 skiers on tailor-made holidays *to 113 resorts throughout the* Alps and Americas. Wengen. £700. Advisory service, off-piste and helicopter-skiing.

Price 36. Satisfaction 43. Total 79.

Ski Weekend (01367 241636): 1,400 short-break, mostly off-piste skiers. Chamonix. £489 for three days. Best guiding in La Grave wilderness area.

Price 30. Satisfaction 35. Total 65.

Flexiski (0171-352 0044): 880 corporate and short-break skiers to Courchevel and Verbier. £575. Russian nights with skidoo tours and unlimited vodka.

Price 21. Satisfaction 32. Total 53.

Chalet Snowboard (01235 767182): 260 snowboard fans to two French resorts. Avoriaz. £440, including boards.

Price 32. Satisfaction 36. Total 68.

Ski Esprit (01252 616789): 4,700 skiers, eight resorts in France and Switzerland, exclusively for families; British nannies for children from four months. Average cost for family with two under fives, £1,394.

Price 33. Satisfaction 30. Total 63.

Masterski (0181-942 9442): 1,394 *Christian skiers to three French* resorts. Alpe d'Huez. £457.

Price 36. Satisfaction 38. Total 74.

Waymark (01753 516477): 2,100 cross-country skiers to nine countries and 38 uncrowded resorts. Kvitavatn in Norway most popular. £500. Reindeer supplied on request.

Price 39. Satisfaction 33. Total 72.

Interski (01623 551024): 8,500 skiers, many school groups, to hotels in Italy's Aosta valley by coach. Courmayeur, with lessons and lift pass. £410.

Price 49. Satisfaction 22. Total 71.

Fresh Tracks (0181-875 9818): 700 skiers, first steps to over-the-head off-piste powder skiing. Chamonix. £800.

Price 35. Satisfaction 30. Total 65.

Powder Skiing North America (0171-736 8191): 350 helicopter-skiers to remote Canadian lodges for the world's most exciting skiing *experience. £2,860. Limited space* for 1996.

Price 20. Satisfaction 47. Total 67.

Motours (01892 518555): 4,500 self-drive skiers to self-catered flats in 25 French resorts. La Plagne. £196.

Price 46. Satisfaction 22. Total 68.

Travelscene *(0181-863 2787)*: 10,000 self-drive skiers to flats in 25 Swiss and French resorts. La Plagne. £150.

Price 45. Satisfaction 25. Total 70.

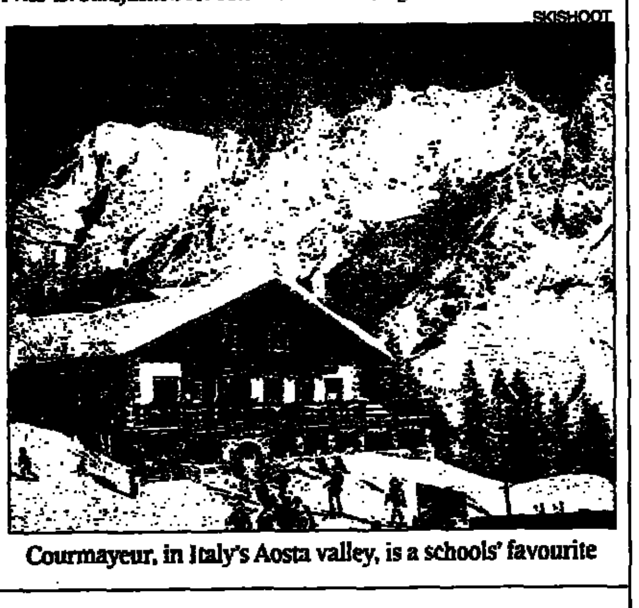
Panorama (01273 206531): 10,000 mostly budget beginners to five resorts in Andorra and Italy. Soldeu. £199.

Price 34. Satisfaction 33. Total: 67.

ALLSPORT

Flying high and happy: skiing means cool adventure for youngsters on the slopes

SKISHOOT

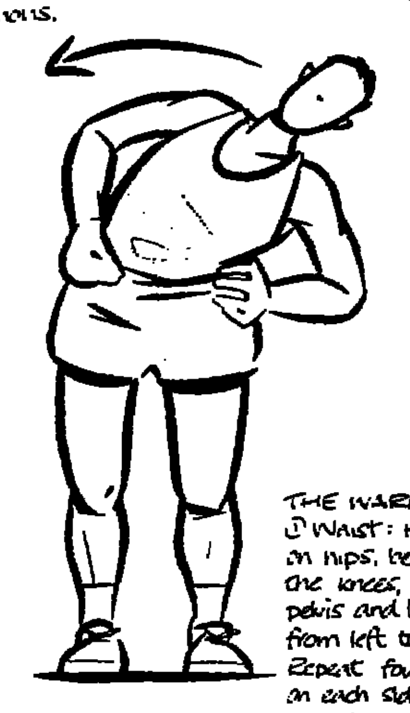


Courmayeur, in Italy's Aosta valley, is a schools' favourite

JANE SPENCER

PRE SKI

From now until Christmas, The Times will be running a series of exercises to get skiing readers into shape before they hit the pistes. The exercises, which are recommended by The Ski Club of Great Britain, are intended to be effective without being too strenuous.



THE WARM UP:

① Waist: Hands on hips, bend the knees, tilt the pelvis and lean from left to right. Repeat four times on each side.

② Hips: Hands on hips, legs bent and pelvis tucked under; shift the hips from right to left. Repeat eight times to each side.

③ Shoulders: Raise shoulders towards ears and pull down as far as possible. Repeat eight times.

④ Neck: Let the head fall forward chin to chest, and up. Repeat four times.

☐ Extracted from *Skilegs* by Tessa Coker, from the Ski Club of Great Britain, 18 Eaton Square, London SW1W 9AF, £2.50 inc P&P. *The Times* cannot be held responsible for any injuries resulting from or sustained while carrying out the exercises and movements described above.

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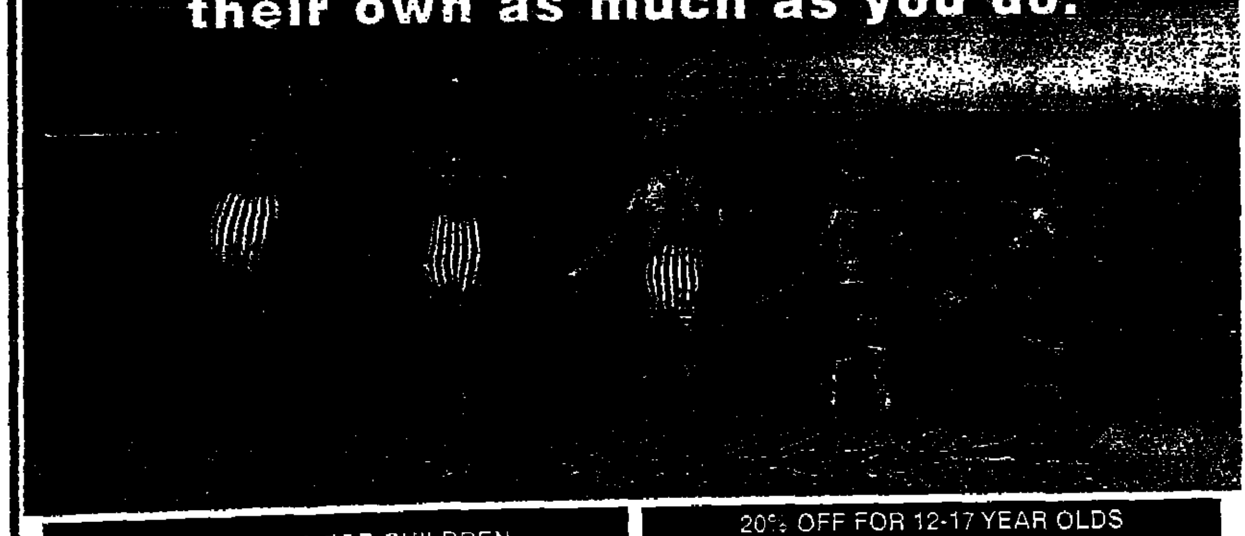

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CHRISTMAS GETAWAYS I: As holidays abroad fill up, **Jill Crawshaw** finds out where there is still room

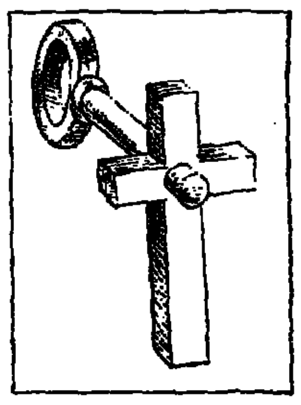
Foreign shores hold promise of good cheer

Culture vultures
Experts in art, music and architecture accompany Martin Randall's Christmas tours of European cities, as well as Provence, Andalusia and even India.

While Prague, Florence and Belgian cities are filling up fast, there is room at Cracow, where guests eat a traditional Polish Christmas dinner on Christmas Eve, and spend the 25th visiting the Tatras mountains and the painted wooden churches at Debno, with lunch at a country inn. The week's tour costs £1,185 including air travel, most meals and entrance fees.
Martin Randall Travel: 0181-742 3355

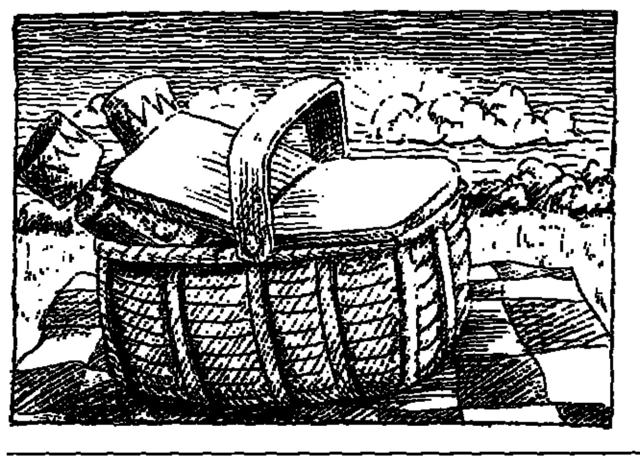
Wine and dine
There is fun galore on a six-day Moselle valley tour. It departs on December 23, and includes a visit to the last day of the Christmas market in Trier, a concert in Bernkastel-Kues, and a visit from Father Christmas, who joins the party on a trip into the mountains for a picnic lunch. There is also an excursion down river to Zell-Mosel for some wine tasting.

The price of £273 includes coach travel all the way, in addition to half-board accommodation.
Moswin Tours: 0116 2719922



Ethiopian tour
Ethiopia was the home of Africa's earliest Christians, who built beautiful churches, many cut from solid rock. In one, the Ark of the Covenant is said to rest, although only the Holy Guardian is allowed to see it.

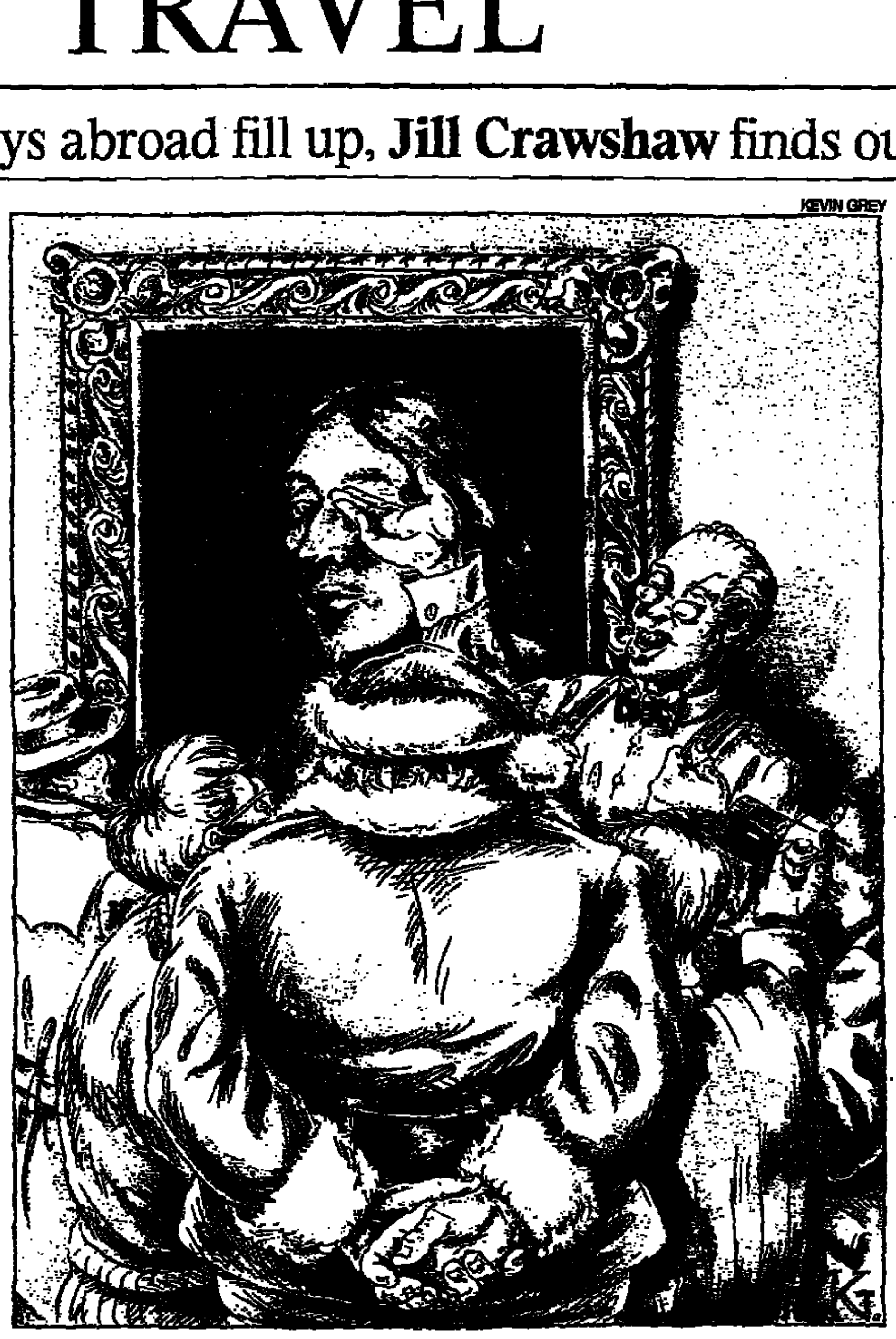
You can visit these ornate churches — and witness the touching and inspirational devotion of their keepers — on a 17-day Ethiopian exploration, which also takes in the medieval castles of Gondar, and the Tissisat Falls. The price is £1,925 including flights, B&B accommodation and a tour leader.
Explore Worldwide: 01252 319448



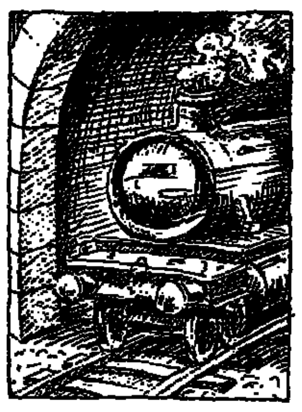
On the move
The costliest Christmas feasts are on the move — or almost. Concorde's supersonic flight circle of one hour 40 minutes is too short for passengers to enjoy a full Christmas lunch, so the first course is served on the ground at Heathrow airport. The flight costs £545 from Goodwood Travel.

There will be 1,500lb of turkey and 750lb of Christmas pudding dished up on the *QE2*'s cruise round the Caribbean from December 19 to January 4. Prices are from £2,695 and include return flights and overnight accommodation in New York. Those who want an Atlantic voyage first can cross on the *QE2* from Southampton before the cruise begins (21 nights with a flight home costs £2,995).

KEVIN GREY



Food for the palette: Martin Randall offers tours of European cities with art experts



The Royal Scotsman's 11-day Christmas and New Year tour starts from London on Christmas Eve. It includes a service at Wells Cathedral on Christmas Day with lunch on the train, a visit to Wincanton races on Boxing Day, and tours of Bath, York Minster and Glamis Castle, arriving in Edinburgh on New Year's Eve.

The price of £3,595 includes accommodation, all meals and drinks on the train, all visits and excursions, as well as three nights' B&B accommodation at Edinburgh's Balmoral Hotel, and a Hogmanay dinner and celebrations. It does not include return travel from Edinburgh.
Goodwood Travel: 01227 763336
Cunard: 01703 716500
The Great Scottish & Western Railway Company: 01753 833377

Réveillon à la Française
A useful leaflet from VFB, the French holiday specialists, gives details of hotels with Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve festivities, the latter being the most important.

It is designed to be used with its France à la Carte brochure, and lists supplements to be added to its usual prices which include half board or B&B plus ferry.

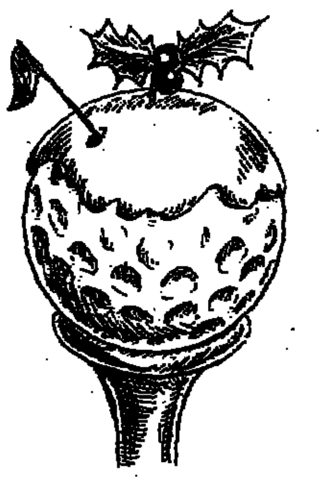
For example, two nights in Normandy in a three-star country-house hotel with half board, plus a New Year's Eve gastronomic menu, drinks and unlimited champagne, costs £304.
VFB: 01242 240310

Bilingual house party
A series of "house-party" cross-country skiing trips are being offered by Waymark Holidays. Guests stay in a hotel in the village of Les Fourgs in southeast France. The skiing is organised in groups of different standards, and guests can join whichever group they choose each day.

The hotel mixes its 40 or so guests from France and Britain, and the guides are bilingual. At Christmas, a traditional French meal is enjoyed communally, followed by a range of activities organised by the hotel, which also has a swimming-pool and sauna.

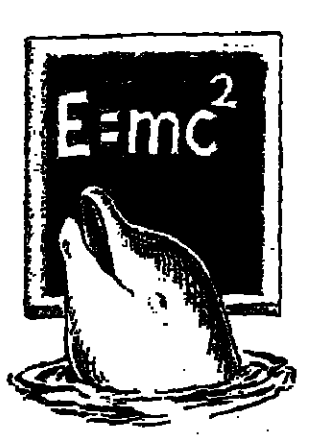
Departures are on December 21, and the week costs £520 including scheduled flights, full board, tuition, equipment and transfers.
Waymark Holidays: 01753 516477

Golfing week
The Hotel Quinta do Lago on Portugal's Algarve offers a seven-night Christmas week aimed at the golfer. Three rounds at any of four courses is included in the price of £876, which also covers accommodation with breakfast, a bottle of port in the room, a Christmas Day buffet lunch, use of the health club, tennis and other sporting facilities, three massages and horse riding. It does not, however, include air fares.
Orient Express Hotels: 0181-568 8366



Champagne château
Three hours' drive from Calais, the four-star Château de Fere in the Champagne region is offering a three-night break over the Christmas holidays. It costs £535 per person (based on two sharing), and includes half board, Christmas lunch, and a return ferry or Le Shuttle ticket for car passengers.
Unicorn Holidays: 01582 834400

Volunteer force
Volunteers are needed over Christmas to work alongside experts on environmental charity Earthwatch projects worldwide.



These include research into the Prehistoric Societies of Majorca, a project which involves uncovering tools, coins and jewellery in a 4,000-year-old religious sanctuary (£995 from December 16 to January 2, excluding flights), studying dolphin intelligence in Hawaii (£1,560 from December 4 to January 1, excluding flights), or folk art in Bali (£1,255 from December 17 to January 14, excluding flights).
Earthwatch: 01865 311600

For singles
Four nights in Vienna, departing on December 23 from Heathrow, costs £635 from the singles specialists Solo's. The price covers flights and transfers, half-board accommodation at the four-star Rathaus Hotel, which has the Christmas market right outside the door, a Christmas Eve Gala dinner and a traditional Christmas Day lunch.

The package also includes a half-day city tour, an excursion to the Vienna Woods, in addition to an accompanied tour of the illuminated city at night.
Solo's: 0181-202 0855

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 27

AZOTURIA
(b) A condition in which the urine contains an excess of nitrogenous matter, from the modern Latin azot(o) nitrogen + *uria*.

EXCITON
(b) Physics jargon in a crystalline semiconductor or insulator, an excited electron and an associated hole which together form a concentration of energy with certain properties characteristic of a particle. A scientific portmanteau.

ADAM'S NEEDLE
(c) A familiar name for the yucca. "From their sharp-pointed leaves with threads hanging from their edges, *Yucca filamentosa* and *Yucca aloifolia*, are known as Adam's needle, Adam's needle-and-thread, and Eve's thread.

BINGY
(a) Australian slang for the stomach or belly, from the Aboriginal word. "They lay rolling themselves on the ground, heavily groaning in pain, exclaiming, 'Cabonn buggie along bingy' (that is, I am very sick in the stomach)."

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Prices subject to surcharge. Ports subject to change.

Price includes: Scheduled flight London/Vienna/London, 7 nights aboard the MS Rousse on full board – breakfast, lunch, afternoon tea, dinner and midnight buffet, transfers, port taxes, music aboard the Rousse.

Not included: Travel insurance, airport taxes, UK departure tax £5, music and excursions ashore.

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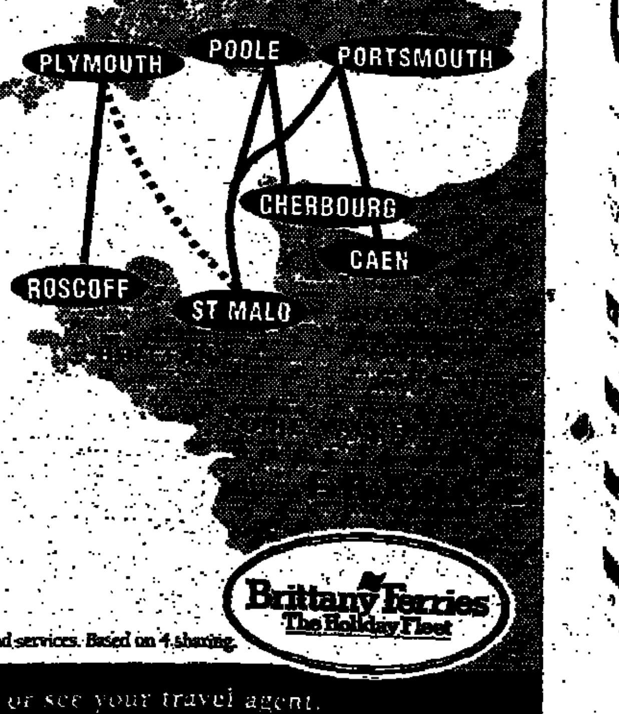

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CHRISTMAS GETAWAYS II: From the surprises of Iceland and a Malaysian island to festivities in Goa

Fiery night in a cold climate

We had planned to spend new year in Kenya. Perhaps the anti-tropical disease injections changed the family mind. Or maybe it was the long flight for so short a holiday, or simply the sense that giraffes were not right for the season. Pictures in an Iceland brochure did the rest: there was the packed ice, the plateaux of shining snow, the ponies noted for their peculiar pounding gait. Within days all plans were changed. We were heading north instead of south.

The certainty that we had done the right thing was immediate on arrival. Anna and Michael (aged 11 and seven) were told tales of trolls by the guide. It did not take long in the daytime darkness before we all believed in the trolls, whose homes are made at every Icelandic crossroad. Is there anywhere so near to Britain where ordinary life is so quickly, easily and relaxedly turned upside down?

Ten months later, as we look back at this holiday, Anna still remembers how she rode so fast on so tiny a long-haired horse across such treacherous tumbling ice, leaning into wind fit to flatten houses. Michael still recalls the 4WD trip, where we were dug out of drifts as often as we stopped for photographs.

By the time New Year's Eve arrived, we had spent five days on our tour. We had seen the spouting Grand Geyser; we had stared suspiciously down little geysers (which spout only, we were told, when primed with pints of Fairy-Liquid); and we had bathed in the hot Blue Lagoon that cures ills of the skin. We had tasted smoked puffin at La Perla, a fancy, domed restaurant made of polished gas storage tanks, and wolfed plastic cheese sandwiches at a picnic for Arctic explorers. By then everyone was an Arctic explorer.

When the minute hand was ticking towards 1995, we were seated on a rocky hilltop overlooking Reykjavik and its ribbon-like surrounds.

On trestle tables stood glasses of Brennvin, a local schnapps with a radium glow and a no less radioactive effect upon the cerebellum. It suddenly seemed perfectly reasonable that, with ten minutes of 1994 remaining and two full Brennvins downed against the cold, the sky before us began to burn with red, green and orange-violet light.

What followed was not reasonable. It was as though every rocket and Roman candle of a long British Guy Fawkes night, with every wheel and cracker from a Texan Fourth of July, had ignited in one small space of minutes. Icelanders are keenly conscious of their closeness to the volcanic fires that formed their country millions of years ago. At the strike of midnight, it seemed as if they were vying to recreate their country's very foundation, not some mere Independence Day or deliverance from regicide, but the creation of the rock itself.

PETER STOTHARD

Iceland: how to get there

☐ The author travelled with Arctic Experience (01737 218800), which offers four or seven-night new year breaks from £510 per person, including flights, accommodation in Reykjavik and a New Year's Eve gala dinner. Departure: December 29. Other Iceland and Norway holidays are available *throughout the year.*

STILL PICTURES

With its packed ice, plateaux of shining snow and bubbling geysers, Iceland's majestic beauty makes it an ideal choice for white-Christmas dreamers

An oasis of green luxury

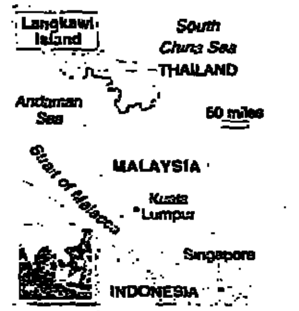
Among the categories of classic bores must be included the creeps who buttonhole you about their latest holiday and their discovery of the most marvellous hotel they have ever come across.

You will guess what's coming: my wife and I returned earlier this year from Malaysia, having spent several days over the new year at the Datai hotel on the island of Langkawi, overlooking the Andaman Sea and the border with Thailand. It was the best hotel by the sea I have stayed at in two decades of intensive hotel-watching.

What makes it so special? Well, for a start, it's blessed with a surpassingly beautiful location. Fifteen years ago, Langkawi, 20 miles off the mainland coast, and a 40-minute flight from Kuala Lumpur, was an undiscovered paradise populated by a few fishermen and a handful of smugglers. There was one hotel and a grass landing-strip. Then Malaysia's prime minister, the formidable Dr Mahathir, saw the island's potential for tourism, and decreed that Langkawi should become a pleasure resort.

Today it has at least 20 hotels and more are planned. It may well be a Majorca or a Bermuda in the making. But the blessed Datai is set well away from any of the brash developments. Surrounded by 1,800 acres of luxuriant rainforest, it has its own sweep of sandy beach, unpolluted water in the bay and a snorkel-friendly coral reef a short distance offshore.

The Datai's greater glory is not its sublime location but the stunning design of the hotel itself, the work of Kerry Hill, an Australian architect working in Singapore. The whole complex, including about 60 rooms and suites in the main block and 40 villas scattered in the grounds, is in perfect harmony with the surroundings. Conservation of the rainforest and the fragile ecosystem of swamps, streams and wildlife was a priority for the developers. Unlike other coastal resort hotels, the Datai has been set against a forest ridge 300 metres back from the beach. The rooms straddle the hillside on stilts, and merge into the forest behind.



The Datai on Langkawi

When I tried to take photographs of the hotel, I discovered that the architect had deliberately foiled my efforts: the beauty lay in the building not having an intrusive profile. Inside and out, every prospect ravished the eye. Understated elegance was the keynote. It took an architect in our party to make me appreciate some of the finer points: the use of indigenous materials in the fabrics and furnishings and of local woods in the cathedral-like main lobby. He was particularly impressed by the innovative floodlighting of the huge forest trees, bringing the spots directly on to the very canopy of the forest. For guests, the hotel is a model of five-star luxury. There are two superb pools: one at the hotel level, with a lofty view down to the forest floor and the sea beyond, and another at beach level. There is a health centre and beauty parlour in the main complex and a fine 18-hole golf course close by. The food, so often an Achilles heel, was no let-down, with "serious" Thai, Malay, Chinese and Indian options in the hotel's three restaurants. There was also what they called Mediterranean cuisine (aka pizzas and pasta) at the beach snack bar.

Everything worked as it should. As a hotel critic, I'm a chronic fault-finder, but vigilant though I tried to be I could find no weaknesses anywhere, except (such a common failing) that the bedside lights were not much use to the reading classes.

What I loved, above all, about the Datai was that it was so in tune with the landscape. And that pleasure was enhanced by the morning and evening walks conducted by the hotel's charismatic resident naturalist, who raised our consciousness of the vulnerable ecology of tropical rainforests. Our stay in consequence was not just a cocktail of hedonistic pleasures, but hedonism with a dash of cultural bitters.

Most silver linings have a cloud. The cloud in this case is the building of a new, larger resort hotel close to the Datai's beach. It won't be within eye or earshot, but that glorious bay will no longer be exclusive: "We'll have to ask our guests to sign for their lounger cushions and towels," the manager said gloomily. The new development is unlikely to be open for another 18 months so the message is go soon, if you can, to enjoy this taste of Elysium at its untarnished best.

HILARY RUBINSTEIN

● *The author is editor of* The Good Hotel Guide.

Getting there

☐ The author booked his stay at the Datai hotel on the Malaysian island of Langkawi *through* Trailfinders (0171-938 3444). He paid £687 per person return for a December flight on *Singapore Airlines to* Kuala Lumpur, changing at Singapore. Prices vary *according to season.* The 40-minute flight from Kuala Lumpur to Langkawi with Malaysian Airlines costs from £67 pp return.

☐ A de luxe rooom at the Datai hotel (00 604 959 2500, fax 00 604 959 2600) costs from £125 a night, plus 10 per cent service charge: *suites from £125 to £250* (Datai Suite, £650).

☐ Reservations through Datai's London office (0181-563 2100) and *Western &* Oriental Travel (0171-221 8677).

Once more unto the beach

THE ROADS to the church were thronged with Goans, the women in their *Sunday* best — saris in vivid reds and blues, yellows and greens — walking under a warm moon to midnight Mass.

A congregation of 1,500 was packed into the huge marquee that had been erected outside the big *Portuguese* church near Majorda beach. We missed the simple beauty of a British service (although we did get *Silent Night*), we *couldn't understand* a word, and the priest ranted his sermon, which was all the more incomprehensible for being in Hindi. But midnight Mass in Goa was so *different* from a service in Britain that it remains imprinted on the memory.

We awoke on *Christmas* morning to a jazz band under the palm trees and had breakfast in the garden. We were offered papaya and pineapple, eggs every way or, for the intrepid, dhosa marsala, a jumbo pancake filled with *cauliflower curry.*

We sunbathed in 80F on an almost deserted golden beach, read our books and swam in the warm sea. A beach lunch *of fish from the morning's* catch, washed down with Indian beer, at a "shack" restaurant built from palm fronds, cost £10. In *the afternoon,* we sunbathed and swam again until the sea and sand turned crimson with the setting sun.

At night, accompanying a mountainous Christmas feast of suckling pig, turkey, curries of meat and fish, puddings and fresh fruit, eaten under the trees in the garden, there were fire-eaters, Goan dancing, limbo dancers and, at *midnight,* a *spectacular* fireworks display. A perfect Christmas Day ended sipping brandies by a bonfire on the beach.

After spending the week before Christmas on the gruelling tourist round of Delhi, Agra and Jaipur — the Red Fort, the Amber Fort, the Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri — we were ready to relax.

But there is plenty to see in Goa, too: the markets at Anjuna and Mapusa, Indian spice farms, or the ghost town of Old Goa, with its six glorious churches, all World Heritage Monuments, including the vast 16th-century Basilica of Bom Jesus, with the mummified remains of St Francis Xavier, and the 15 altars of Se Cathedral.

Then it was New Year's Eve, *and the celebrations* — still more fireworks, the burning of guys, the fire-eaters and the dancers — started all over again. After midnight there *was dancing by the beach and* the teenagers didn't get back until dawn.

Christmas in Britain this year will seem an anti-climax.

BRIAN MACARTHUR

● *Travel details for Goa are on page 8.*

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PRINCESS CRUISES

CHRISTMAS GETAWAYS III: *Times* travel writers select their favourite destinations for the festive season

Santa in a stetson for the great escape

COMSTOCK

Mount Rundle near Banff, Alberta. Canada offers great skiing, a Scottish baronial and French provincial ambience, lots of fine food, log fires and sleigh rides

ANGUILLA

Two years ago, my wife and I gave Christmas lunch to 15 people, threw them all out at 6pm sharp, then fled the British winter to Antigua in time to eat Boxing Day lunch beneath the Caribbean sun.

It's the perfect way to survive the festive season — bettered only by scramming before the dreaded day, and downing all those Yuletide spirits beside (or even in) those soothing azure waters. My dream destination would be Anguilla, as I'm desperate to check out reports that the sand is the whitest in my favourite part of the world. A one-way ticket would suit me fine.

Anthony Holden

VAL D'ISÈRE

I had met him two weeks earlier at a friend's drinks party, murmured "good idea" when he had suggested a Christmas break in the Alps and failed, until reaching the top of a terrifying black run, to discover that he was a former Olympic downhill champion. I am one of the world's worst skiers.

There were two others on the holiday — both good skiers. The one thing we had in common was the yen to spend Christmas at Val d'Isère, away from the gloom of England.

Christmas morning found us swinging across almost empty slopes and, at lunchtime, drinking champagne and eating chicken salad on the sunny verandah of a mountain restaurant. The evening turned into a wild, all-night party which snaked and slithered through the town, in and out of private apartments, restaurants and Dick's Tea Bar until dawn.

Jane Owen

KERALA

Europe and America close down over Christmas: hotel staff, cinemas, restaurants, museums all shut their doors. This is useless. So it's off to pagan places, such as New York. But I need warmth too, so I'll choose Cochin in southern India. December is ideal — the driest month in this often drenched town. It's a city on water, its islands linked by bustling ferries. None the less, Cochin is perfect for wandering: old docks and warehouses, Chinese fishing nets, the synagogue, British and Portuguese colonial relics, and waterway excursions to Alleppey. In the evenings, I'd watch the Kathakali dancers and eat lobsters. I'd keep taking this medicine till Christmas was well and truly over.

Stephen Brook

TEXAS

Texas is not the place that immediately springs to mind as somewhere to spend Christmas. Image and reality conspire against it. Longhorn cattle instead of reindeer, cacti, not Christmas trees, cowboy songs, not carols and Santa in a stetson: it hardly seems right. That said, Texas at Christmas is where I'd like to be, saddling up on a frosty morning for a ride across the Big Bend country, frozen in the saddle until the sun rises.

Texas is the Big Country, but the place I would choose for Christmas is the little town of Fort Davis, which has a cavalry fort put up in the 1860s to deter the Comanches, and several small, attractive hotels. These offer Christmas with all the trimmings; good food, log fires, snug bedrooms — Fort Davis stands at 5,000ft and it can snow up there. For entertainment there is a saloon, a certain amount of shopping, saddle-horses at the door, splendid scenery, hospitable people and a remarkable absence of crowds.

For a spot of luxury, Texas-style, there is always the Cibola Creek Ranch, near Shafter, which offers everything from the singing cowboy to the California chef. For a lively time I might visit the city of San Antonio, which has a "Tex-Mex" Christmas with fairy lights and mariachi music. The locals will make Christmas fun.

Robin Neillands

GOA

I'd choose Goa, and eat a Christmas lunch of tiger prawns, fish curry in coconut milk, or even fresh fish and chips in a palm-thatched beach shack. There would be local Marquise de Pompadour champagne, but definitely not Goa's red wine or lethal cocktail, feni.

For a church service I'd go to one of the endearing little white churches that sprout from the paddy fields, with Hindu temples next door, or wander through the huge crumbling cathedral and basilicas of haunting Old Goa, the abandoned former capital that once rivalled Lisbon.

My family are philistines about sightseeing, but even they would tolerate Goa's modest offerings, and it would break them in gently to India, for which I have a passion.

Jill Crawshaw

HELSINKI

I wouldn't want a hot Christmas. But then again, I have to be careful about cold ones — the white alternative to a rainy English Christmas so often means dinky Alpine scenery or snow stacked up on the steeply pitched Gothic roofs of northern Europe, which is far too much like a fairy tale for comfort.

My choice would be to spend Christmas in Helsinki, where they are brilliant at making interiors look warm and wonderful against the driving snow outside, where people stamp their boots and deliver their greatcoats to cloakroom attendants in restaurants, where bedrooms are always warm and duvets always white and heavenly.

I'd go to the city's sauna by the lake and sit in the wood smoke and probably not be brave enough to jump, like a steaming frankfurter, through the hole in the ice outside. And then I'd take the six-hour train journey through the whiteness to St Petersburg to watch heavy women in scarves crowding into church.

Susan Marling

LAMU

Peponi's Inn is the place for me. It is on Lamu, a laid-back, traffic-free island hideaway in the Indian Ocean, off Kenya. Peponi's is one of the great landfalls of Africa, a blissful oasis between the sandhills and the sea. It's Swahili name means "where the wind blows" and its cool terraces catch every last whisper of the monsoon breezes.

You arrive by dhow — it's the only way to go — and come ashore at the hotel steps. There is elegance here, wonderful seafood and good wine in full measure, but no ceremony. If you wish, you can pad barefoot to dinner dressed only in shirt and a wrap-round *kikoi*. No Christmas holly, but who cares when there are palm trees alive with carmine bee-eaters? At night, the moon seems to come straight up out of the sea.

Brian Jackman

NEW YORK

Give me a white Christmas every time rather than a warm one. Christmas isn't Christmas unless you can see your breath; cold and commercial is what Christmas should be.

That means New York, a Santa ho-hoing on every street corner, whole buildings tied up with ribbon and shop-window displays to queue for. All the religions in the world couldn't afford the sponsorship Christianity gets for the Big Apple's Christmas — lashings of sentiment, oodles of tradition and no paper hats to tell you you're having a good time.

I'd give a helicopter tour as a Christmas present, marvel at the toys in F.A.O. Schwarz, go to the ballet at the Lincoln Centre, skate in Rockefeller Plaza, munch brownies on the Staten Island Ferry, dine at the top of the World Trade Centre, refresh the spirit in church in Harlem and then take a couple of days in the Catskills to recover.

Peter Hughes

CANADA

The setting is stupendous — the finest snowy backdrop in the world. The ambience is a mix of Scottish baronial and French provincial, with a bit of wild colonial and some Japanese money. The skiing is good, as are the skating around the ice sculptures, the ice fishing, the sleigh rides and the swimming. Lots of fine food, log fires and ho-ho *Santas*.

Go dog-sledding as an aprés-fest. Yes, I'll settle for Banff Springs Hotel, Alberta, in the Candian Rockies.

Willy Newlands

KARNATAKA

My dream Christmas would be to escape, just once, from tradition and commercialism. I would fly my family to South India, to Nagarhole National Park. There we would stay in the riverside Rabini River Lodge run by John Wakefield, known to all as John Sahib.

Early each morning, he would take us by Jeep through the forest to spot massive-shouldered bison, prancing deer, peacocks strutting in the undergrowth, and families of monkeys chattering and gallivanting among the treetops they share with golden orioles and other exotic birds.

Back at the lodge, there would be breakfast feasts, time to read, walk, birdwatch and sleep. On evening trips back into the forest or up the river by boat, we would watch families of elephant coming together for Nagarhole's livid sunsets. Father Christmas would arrive on an elephant, and John Sahib's Christmas dinner would be a feast to remember. My dream comes true this year.

Louise Nicholson

How to get there

☐ Anguilla: Caribbean Connections, 01244 341131, offers holidays to Anguilla. Seven nights at the Malliouhana Hotel room only over Christmas from £2,652 including flights.

☐ Val d'Isère: Crystal Holidays, 0181-399 5144, December 23-30. Price £909 half-board. Other operators: Inghams, Bladon Lines. See also page 5.

☐ Kerala: Bales Tours, 01306 885991, has a 15-day escorted holiday "Images of South India", with three days over Christmas in Cochin. Price £2,049, half-board and flights.

☐ Texas: The Texas Tourism Initiative, PO Box 61, Horsham, West Sussex. Tailor-made holidays in Texas can be booked through Kuoni Travel, 01306 742888, or American Holidays on Freephone 0800 282908, or Key to America, 01784 248777.

☐ Goa: Thomson Worldwide, 0171-707 9000, offers one week at Majorda Beach Hotel B&B for £905 including flights, 14 nights £1,199. Inspirations and Somak Holidays also offer a range of Goa packages.

☐ Helsinki: Scantours 0171-839 2927, December 23-26, three nights, ex Heathrow, Ramada Presidente Hotel B&B price £335.

☐ Lamu: Abercrombie & Kent, 0171-730 9600, offers seven and 14-night holidays in Lamu December 23: seven nights b&b at the Peponi Hotel for £1,618, 14 nights for £2,227, both including flights.

☐ New York: A three-night break in December with British Airways, 01293 723100, staying at the comfortable Doral Park Hotel on Park Avenue, costs £463 per person, room only. There is a £210 supplement over Christmas.

☐ Canada: Banff Springs Hotel, 001 403 762 2211, Can$140 per person per night. Airport transfers are included.

☐ Karnataka: Use travel agents such as Abercrombie & Kent, 0171-730 9600, or Steppes East, 01285-810267.

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Itinerary at a Glance

Colombo	(Hotel Taj Sumudra) 1st and last night
Kandy	(Hotel Mahaweli Reach/Topaz) 2 nights
Nuwara Eliya	(St Andrews/Grand Hotel) 1 night
Dickoya	(Glencairne Bungalows) 1 night
Empilipitiya	(Centuria Inn) 1 night
Ratnapura	(Ratnaloka Tour Inn) 2 nights

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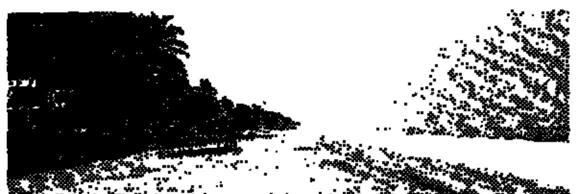

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BRITAIN: Why Anglesey is more than just a blur on the landscape; plus a stroll along the Ouse Valley Way

Beaumaris, as in beautiful

For most people, Anglesey is *just a blur they see on their* way to Ireland via Holyhead (and perhaps an even bigger blur — after all those Irish *whiskies — on the* way back). But this island across the Menai Straits is a seductive place for anyone who stops to have a look.

An ideal place *to stay is the* little town of Beaumaris, which looks across the water from the east coast of Anglesey to the mountains of Snowdonia. The locals (who all speak Welsh) pronounce it "Bew-maris", as in "beautiful" — which, they claim, is how the Normans pronounced it. Stand in its *main* street — a jumble of Tudor, Georgian and Victorian houses — and you can see a wooded hill at one end, and the half-built towers of Beaumaris Castle at the other.

Kyffin Williams, the Welsh artist and *current* President of the Royal Cambrian Academy, calls Beaumaris the prettiest town in Wales.

Mr Williams lives on the shore a *few miles south of Beaumaris*, in the village with the longest name in the world — Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwllllantysiliogogogoch. This is commonly shortened to Llanfair PG, but you can see the full 58 letters in and outside the railway station.

Llanfair PG *is the first village* you come to on the island after crossing over from Bangor. There are two bridges across the Straits — the Menai Bridge, a graceful suspension bridge built by Thomas Telford in 1826, and Stephenson's Britannia Bridge — uglier, but just as great an engineering feat — which was opened as a railway bridge in 1850, and rebuilt with both rail and road levels after it was burnt down in 1970. Now it takes the A5 to Holyhead.

Anglesey is about 20 miles across, and its shores are full of holiday pleasures. *Heading along* the south coast from the bridges, you find a splendid golden beach surrounded by a forest with nature trails at Newborough, and there are two fine bays for bathing and boating further on at the Edwardian town of Rhosneigr. At Aberffraw, *the tiny church of St* Cwfan stands on an island that can be reached on foot at low tide.

At the westernmost point of Anglesey lies Holy Island, which has the port of Holyhead situated on it, but also offers *many* sandy beaches, *and fine views of cliff*-nesting birds by the South Stack lighthouse. On the north coast, you come across rocky coves with lonely bathing, and the remains of the great copper mines of Parys Mountain, which brought brief wealth to the island in the 18th century.

> ‘You can fish for crabs on the pier with a long string’

Back in Beaumaris you are well placed for some of the island's best visits and excursions. Beaumaris Castle was one of the finest forts built by Edward I in his wars against the Welsh in the 13th century. *It was never finished*, but for that reason is especially beautiful. Inside its moat, which was also once a dock, it has many low, round towers, *and over the greensward* in the middle of its rings of stone walls loom the ghostly outlines of a great gallery. An excellent exhibition in one stone room tells the story of Edward's Welsh castles.

Beaumaris also invites visitors into its 17th-century courthouse, *still* in use (though not too *often*, I am glad to say), and its barbarous old jail, complete with treadmill (not now used at all).

There is a *Museum* of Childhood Memories in Beaumaris, and from our bedroom window in Ye Olde Bull's Head hotel, we could see the *largest gate in Britain, which opens* into the courtyard and has made *The Guinness Book of Records*. You can take boat trips along the Straits from Beaumaris pier, from which you can also fish for crabs on a long string.

A few *miles south stands the* great house of Plas Newydd. This is the home of the Marquesses of Anglesey. The 1st Marquess was hit by a *cannon ball at Waterloo*. "By God, sir, I've lost my leg," he shouted to the Duke of Wellington. "By God, sir, so you have," the Duke *replied*. The 1st *Marquess* can be seen (with both legs) on a tall column just over the Menai Bridge.

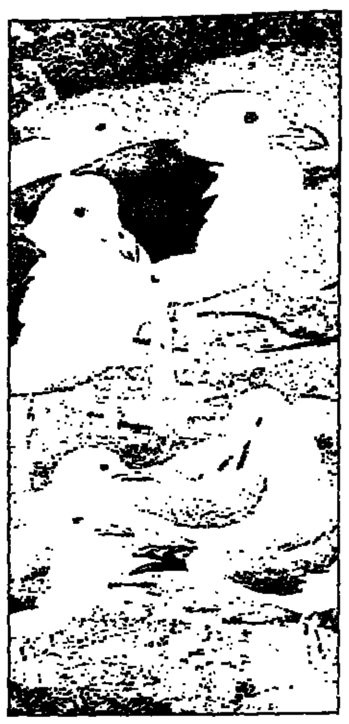
The house, which looks across the *Straits*, was given its magnificent Gothic air by James Wyatt in the late 18th century. Just before the last war, the 6th Marquis commissioned the artist Rex Whistler to decorate a long wall in one room with a strange architectural fantasy, like a *Claude* in 1930s dress. Now Plas Newydd is owned by the National Trust but the 7th Marquess and his wife still live in an upper apartment.

In the heart of the island countryside is the town of Llangefni, where a splendid Museum of Anglesey, known as *Oriel Ynys Môn, has* recently opened. A brilliantly animated show tells the history of the island, from its Celtic saints to its 20th-century artists — *including the* bird painter C.F. Tunnicliffe, who lived on an estuary near Newborough made famous in his *Shorelands Summer Diary*. The museum has an outstanding collection of his work. This is a place you should not fail to visit.

DERWENT MAY

TONY PAGE

Built by Telford in 1826, the graceful suspension bridge is one of two spanning the Menai Straits



Gull Gallery by Tunnicliffe

Where to go

☐ Ye Olde Bull's Head Inn, Castle Street, Beaumaris LL58 8AP *(01248 810329; fax: 01248* 811294). Attractive old inn in the high street, with excellent food. A double room with B&B costs £73 *a night*.

☐ Tre-Ysgawen Hall, Capel Coch, Llangefni LL77 7UR (01248 750750; fax: 01248 750035). *Three-star hotel* — a magnificent *stone mansion deep in the* countryside, with notable restaurant. Double room £93.50-£104.50 a night.

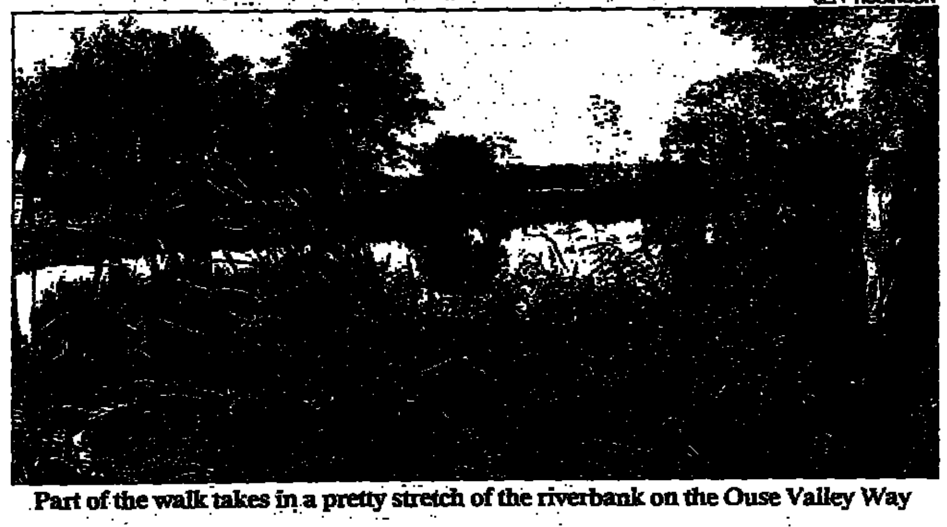
THESE are just two of innumerable hotels and guest houses in Anglesey, at many of which it is not necessary to book in advance.

☐ *Plas Newydd: one mile* southwest of Llanfair PG on the A4080. Open daily except Saturday, March 31 to September 29; Friday and Sunday, October 1-29 (gardens 11am-5pm, house noon-5pm). £3.80.

☐ Oriel Ynys Môn (Anglesey Gallery), Rhosmeirch, Llangefni. *Open daily except* Mondays, 10.30am-5pm. £2.

Braving the bullocks for charity

JEFF ROBINSON



Part of the walk takes in a pretty stretch of the riverbank on the Ouse Valley Way

It looked like any old quarry — trucks, Portakabins, heaps of wet sand. I *wasn't looking closely* enough. "The sand and gravel came here from Scandinavia during the Ice Age," explained *my guide* Mike Tuke, *turning over a stone* to reveal fossilised worms and oyster shells.

"A hundred and thirty-nine *species* of birds have been sighted around this pond," he told me as we left the gravel pits and entered *Little Paxton* nature reserve. "That's half of all the inland species in Britain." Regular visitors include herons, *cormorants*, *nightingales* and coots — plus the twitchers who crowd the place out at weekends.

Mike Tuke, the Huntingdon organiser of the Walk for Wildlife (see panel), joined me to try out his local walk, one of 300 that will be trodden all over Britain on October 15. He brought along his greyhound, George. My wife came carrying our six-week-old son, Adam, in a sling. Together we formed the perfect party to test the walk's suitability for a wide range of people.

The walk begins on the *Ouse Valley Way*, *following* the path marked "Heron Trail" and the signs towards the river. Reaching the Great *Ouse, we came across moored* boats with their own tidy patch of garden, but we were soon *back* in wilderness.

A large, forbidding sign — "PRIVATE — NO ACCESS" — meant we had to look for a *narrow path to the right* between the trees. We rejoined the riverbank for a delightfully pretty stretch, where willows *wept into* the *water and the* banks were alive with autumn colours: rosehips, blackberries, crab apples, hawthorns.

We reached a *pumping station* and could see a church across the river. The walk turns left there, but if you are hungry, continue on and cross a bridge into the Offords — Offord Cluny and Offord D'Arcy — *adding two miles to* your walk. This is the closest you will get to a pub.

We decided to continue without a break, crossing fields to the *hamlet of Doddington*, the only houses (and cars) we passed all afternoon. We were just three fields from the A1, *but with the wind blowing in* the right direction you would never have known.

The road bent right and we *carried on across a stile into a* field of bullocks. A hasty diagonal left and another stile took us to more gravel *pits*, with the A1 lorries visible in the distance.

Soon we reached the site of a medieval *village*, *deserted* since the Plague. Its man-made mounds and ditches were clearly visible. We *crossed a bridge and followed* a stream to Boughton Lodge Farm, distinguished by its octagonal brick tower, then walked through an orchard to return to the quarry.

Six miles in the flat East Anglian *landscape* had *taken* just over two hours. None of us was exhausted, the baby had slept throughout and we concluded that the walk would be a pleasant half-day stroll for anyone who is reasonable fit.

Mike Tuke *is hoping* to raise £1,000; the national figure could be £500,000. But the aim is to raise awareness as well as cash. Everyone *knows* about rhinos and tigers, but there are endangered British species too — doormice, pine *martens*, *several kinds of* butterfly. By getting out next Sunday, you might help to save them.

TONY KELLY

Fact file

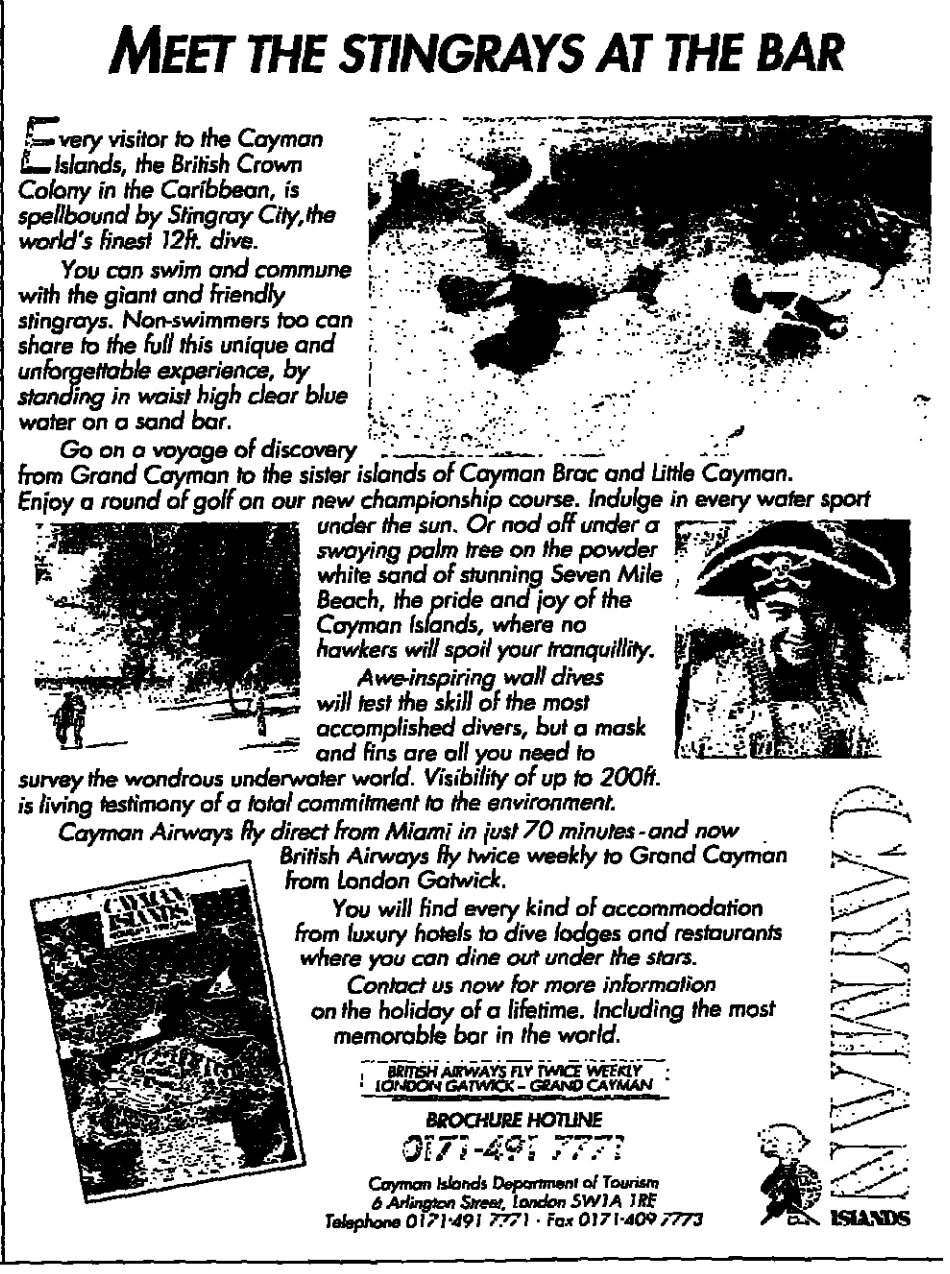
- *The walk is at Little Paxton Nature Reserve, St Neots, Cambridgshire (OS map 153) next Sunday, between 10am and 2.30pm. Contact: Mike Tuke (01480 457068, evenings). For details of other walks, ring the WWF Hotline (01483 426269).*
- *Where to eat: The Bell, on the A1 at Southoe, a mile north of Little Paxton does main courses for £5-£10.*

WALK FOR WILDLIFE

WWF

NEXT Sunday people in 300 parts of Britain will be putting on their walking boots to raise money for wildlife, *Tony Kelly writes*. This is the 17th annual Walk for Wildlife, organised by the World Wide Fund for Nature. Sponsored walks range from a *one-mile stroll along the seafront at* Weston-super-Mare to a ten-mile hike in the Cotswolds and a 20-mile circuit of Whipsnade Wild Animal Park.

Many of the walks are in areas of obvious wildlife interest — zoos, *nature reserves and a walk "beyond the* hard shoulder" at Uxbridge through a site threatened by the widening of the M25. The London group has already held a sponsored pub crawl, while in Sherwood *Forest there is a braille trail and a wheelchair* walk. Several of the walks are in short laps of a mile or so, allowing walkers to go as far as they choose.



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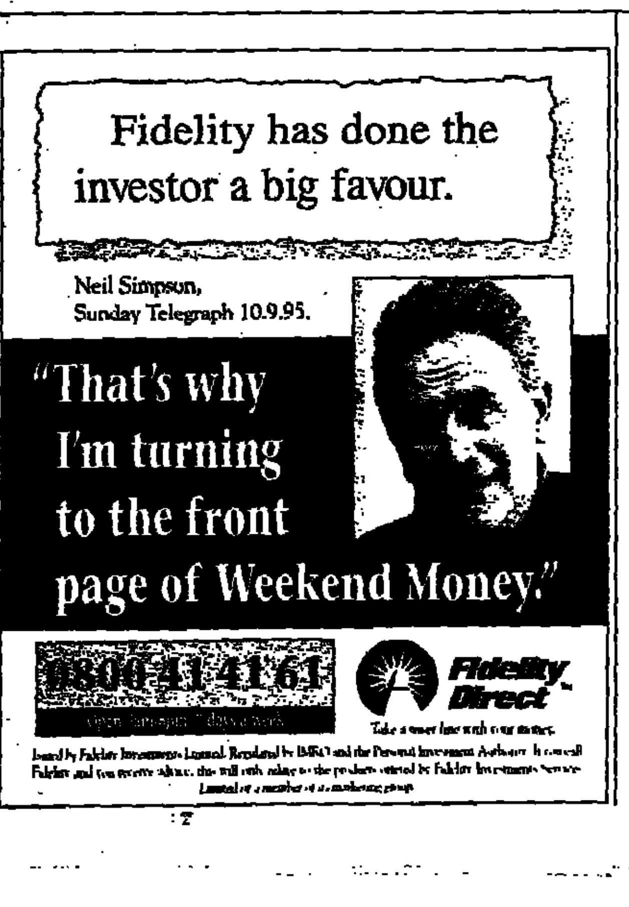

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FIRST HE WAS THE DEFENCE LAWYER

CHRIS PAGET is a high-profile San Francisco defence attorney.

When his lover's estranged husband is found dead in his apartment with a gun wedged between his teeth and a suspect suicide note, things don't look good.

Chris Paget has motive - his teenage son is accused of abusing the dead man's daughter, he is having an affair with the dead man's ex-wife, his political plans are being put at risk by the dead man's accusations.

And his alibi is full of holes.

Only a six year old knows the truth.

ARROW
PAPERBACK

George Walden, chairman of the Booker judges, on why the shortlist defies controversy

No prize chumps, we

Never apologise, never explain ... The reaction to the Booker shortlist gives me little to complain about, though a word of explanation may be in order.

It is true that we have failed to match last year's fuss over the "scandal" of James Kellman's "obscene" *How Late It Was, How Late* — though in my view the scandal was more in the fuss than in the "obscenity". Had there been an obscene novel of outstanding literary value on this year's shortlist, I would have enjoyed defending it; but you cannot have everything.

In fact, the committee did kerfuffle, for an unprecedented *number of hours, over drinks and* lunches, on the telephone, and across the committee table. If nobody walked out, it was not because of an excess of delicate feeling; it was just that we got along well.

A suggestion has been made that *our list represented a conscious* return to "traditional values". The image of myself, brief in hand, lecturing my highly expert committee about the true purposes of literature is entertaining. The more *so since I am personally allergic to* "traditional values", if what we mean is the blandness, gentility and "good taste" that go to make a culture of contentment. I do not see a lot of those values in our shortlist.

Adam Mars-Jones has been mis*quoted as saying* that none of us wanted to add to the five. In fact, *several of us believed that there* should be a sixth book, and had vibrant feelings about what it should be. The trouble was that our feelings did not vibrate in harmony at this point, and each proposal encountered resolute opposition by a *majority. In a smoothly-run com*mittee we would have agreed to go for a sensible accommodation, for appearances' sake. Fortunately it was not that sort of committee.

Reading huge quantities of novels *seriatim was an experience compa*rable to visiting a provincial art gallery. As in such places, the good works stood out all the more for being seen in the company of the less distinguished. And as always in such galleries, we were each on the lookout for some unexpected "find" to display to the others.

As for methodology, if there is a rational way of selecting the "best" of 141 novels in six months, I am sure next year's chairman will be pleased to hear it. All I can say is that 141 is some distance beyond the limit. If the inflation increases, it will be impossible for all the judges to read every book, which would be a pity: the chances of someone falling through the net are too great.

I tried to arrange things so that we talked round and round the novels, *in a gradually narrowing gyre, so as* to avoid works being too abruptly discarded, and to refine our opinions of the books as we went. Above all, I wanted to exclude the danger of falling into a timorous "consensus", or the feeling that we were choosing something "mainstream" that "people would like". That is a *legitimate aim for a book prize, but* not for the Booker.

Someone asked me whether I believed that our list would stand the test of time. The question is central and I do not know the answer. In modern art, ephemerality has become a virtue. It would be sad if anything similar were to happen to the literary novel. The danger is real. Writers are as much *prey to* the tyranny of the times as others, perhaps more so, because they feel *those times more* intensely. T.S. Eliot foresaw the problem when he warned against a "provincialism not of space, but of time" in literature.

The works *may* be about the *past, as were so many* of the Booker entries this year, yet they can still be trapped *in* Eliot's "provincialism of time", in the sense that their presentation of the past is a sort of retrospective of the present. Which is a long way of saying that *fashion* — moral fashion especially — has never been more dangerous *in literature*.

What the Booker can claim is that all but two of its *25 winners are still* in print. Which redoubles our responsibility to get the right one on November 7.

Rabbits with claws

■ MINK!
By Peter Chippindale
Simon & Schuster, £9.99

VETERAN hard-nosed newsman in shock retreat to rural tranquillity: Peter Chippindale is Evelyn Waugh's Boot on the other foot. One of Fleet *Street's best investigative jour*nalists for two decades, during which he also published some feisty hardback dispatches from the ugly world in which we live, the gritty Yorkshireman has withdrawn to Corn*wall and turned to fiction.*

It is fiction, unsurprisingly, with a documentary edge — acerbic political allegory, at times satire, in the shape of an extended "animal fantasy". Every species locked in the *struggle for woodland surviv*al — each with its smug, selfperpetuating hierarchies and dimly obeisant lower orders — carries echoes of the humanoid power struggles which once fuelled Chippindale's journalism.

In the "Lapine Loonies", for *instance, impatient with the* "Code of Woodland Practice" imposed by their elders, Tony Blair's new Labour might shudder at the memory of the *militant* tendency. And the Green coalition might have a *few procedural points to offer* the chaotic meetings of the "Concerned Woodland Guardians", an ill-assorted alliance with a sense of impending doom.

Which turns out to be justified, *as the eponymous minks* mount a bid for world domination. *En route* to Chippindale's telling climax, however, we encounter a wise old *rabbit* making vain attempts to persuade a predatory *owl* that all *animals* are equal — although some, he concedes, are "more equal than others".

SOUNDS familiar? There is even a cameo appearance *from "Orwella the otter". An "Animal Farm* for the 1990s" is the dust jacket's claim for *Mink!* — mindful, perhaps, that 50 years after George Orwell's masterpiece was first rejected by half a dozen pub*lishers, who told the author* that the combination of ani*mals and politics would never* sell, it was recently adjudged "the best book of the 20th century".

Where Orwell had specific political targets in mind, however, Chippindale favours *broader brushstrokes*, apparently commending private val*ues above public philosophies* in the late 20th-century world on which he has himself turned his back.

The result is less *Animal Farm* than *Watership Down* with claws — or, at times, an *update of Swallows and Amazons* by Tarantino. At such inordinate length, the relentless anthropomorphism required by the genre, peppered with cutely punning brands of beast-speak, can soon pall on all but the *most indefatigable* animal-lover — or, indeed, child, as Chippindale's fable is clearly aimed at readers of all ages.

*Liberated from the con*straints of column-inches, Chippindale seems also to have thrown away his blue pencil. One of *Animal Farm's virtues is its concision: my* Penguin runs to 95 pages, as against *Mink!'s* 565. But this is evidently a labour of love, fulfilled with confidence and *panache*. Very *reasonably* priced for so hefty a tome. *Mink!* deserves — despite that irritating exclamation mark — to keep the wolf awhile from *the* former *newsman's* forest door.

ANTHONY HOLDEN

Horror of the battle front

When the television media in Bosnia also have enemies at home

REUTERS

A Bosnia Serb hugs the skull of her son killed in Srebrenica and buried in a mass grave

■ IN HARM'S WAY
By Martin Bell
Viking, £16.99

PICTURE this: sent to report on a nightmare vision of darkness and murder — a *place where truth is a variable* commodity and contorted weapon of war — where what pictures you are impudent enough to capture under Draconian time limits - are sanitised on the grounds of taste, and squashed on to a living-room television screen for one minute and 42 seconds before a lottery-drugged audience of chilling indifference, you discover a reality.

Instead of an Orwellian *hallucination*, you have entered the world laid bare by Martin Bell in his autobiographical account of the Bosnian way. Here the conflict, its ugliness the very antithesis of Vietnam's sensuousness, *draws together his experi*ences as a reporter, and marks him, as many other observers to that war, more indelibly than any before it.

In its pages little more is discovered of Bell — a brave man who modestly describes himself as of the "let's-get-the*hell-out-of-here*" school of courage — than what is already known. These include his ignominious time as a National Service soldier and his reliance on a host of talismans: the white suit, green socks and the silver dollar in his pocket.

More importantly than exposing personal motivations, his words strike authoritatively through the war's bloody concourse, where mass destruction and mass communication have tangled in a knot of Gordian proportions, lifting *the veil from a televised stage* where objectivity is a relative value and revisionism the order of the day.

Working against danger, lies, obstruction and logistical impossibilities, the television media *in Bosnia find their* enemies also at home, both among those who govern the ethics of tastefully reporting a tasteless affair, and members of the Establishment's "do-nothing brigade", whose accepted *political wisdom* is challenged by Bosnia's televised reality.

More than bullet, bomb and boss, Bell's enemy is exposed in the final analysis as the ultimate link in his profession *— the viewer — whose* ignorance is seldom moved by the 3in figures that kill and cry on a one-dimensional screen.

Quoting the words of the Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel, Bell states bleakly: "It *is not because I cannot explain* that you won't understand; it is because you won't understand that I cannot explain."

Written with clarity and often understated anger, this is more than a book on the strictures of television in conflict. This is a prophetic warning from the brutal European battlefield: ignore it at your children's peril.

ANTHONY LOYD

Anthony Loyd is a special correspondent for The Times *in Bosnia.*

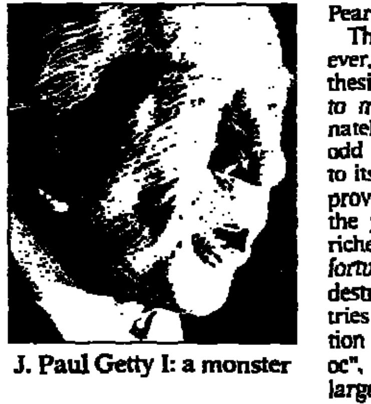
Fame and misfortune

How J. Paul Getty's billions failed to bring any family happiness

■ PAINFULLY RICH: J. PAUL GETTY AND HIS HEIRS
By John Pearson
Macmillan, £17.50

FAMILY fortunes are John Pearson's *speciality* as a biographer. The sagas of several *clans, from the Krays to the* Windsors, have already come from his pen. Now, he takes on J. Paul Getty and his heirs. But *Painfully Rich* is, in fact, much more the story of the fortune, than the family.

Jean Paul Getty I was not a self-made man. His father had struck *oil* before him, and he embarked on adult life as a millionaire. By his death in 1974, however, he was a billionaire of distinction: his personal wealth was larger *than the* annual budget of Northern Ireland, and the trust fund that he had provided for his sons and grandchildren topped $4 billion.



J. Paul Getty I: a monster

As the wealth accrued, though, so the Getty family developed *its* equally famous tendency for dysfunction of Aeschylean proportions. The tales of suicide, drug addiction, overdose, kidnapping, *Aids, rift* and *feud* have made riveting newsprint for years, and are entertainingly detailed here.

It is an extraordinary story, combining comedy — Getty's *installation of a public phone* box for the guests in his country seat — *and horror* — the arrival of a grandchild's severed ear in the post — and Pearson tells it well.

The book's problem, however, is that its author has a thesis, which he is determined *to make stand up. Unfortu*nately, throughout the 300-odd pages, it never struggles to its feet. Pearson sets out to prove that the Getty woes are the product of the "curse of riches", and that the Getty *fortune has been the "most* destructive" of our time. He tries to draw a causal connection between "misery", "havoc", "human wreckage" and large amounts of dosh.

J. Paul Getty was a monster, and that was where the trouble lay. He deserted five wives, and ignored his four sons until they were old enough to work for him, then he ritually humiliated them. He let his grandson be mutilated by the Mafia before he would part with the ransom.

He wanted a dynasty, but was only *willing to* contribute the genes and the trust fund. The Getty story is not so much a parable against wealth: it is more a paeon to family values.

GILL HORNBY

Terror of their ways

■ LET'S DANCE
By Frances Hegarty
Viking, £15

WHEN Frances Hegarty *writes under her own name*, instead of the crisper and more prolific Frances Fyfield, it is a signal that she is in a baroque mood. *Let's Dance*, like Hegarty's previous novels, *The Playroom* and *Half Light*, is an ornate book with a fevered and peculiar atmosphere evoked by an *isolated* manor house, a snowstorm and a cemetery.

To the manor house comes a hopeless woman, Isabel Burley, to look after her mother, Serena, who is fuddled by Alzheimer's disease. *Pointless*ly promiscuous, lacking in confidence, desperate for mother love, Isabel is as suitable a case for treatment as her parent. Together they are a poisonous combination.

Serena's one true friend is George, an ex-con. Inarticulate and crafty, he understands the swoops and fogs of Serena's mind but, unwittingly, is the cause of her home being burgled and Isabel nightmarishly assaulted.

Further unsettling this seething household is Isabel's brother Robert, a monster in pragmatic selfishness with an eye on his mother's antique furniture and the excuse of "family responsibilities" for *neglecting her*.

There is also the question of *a series* of pornographic letters written several years before, which ruined Isabel's reputation. Their authorship remains a mystery until the *end of the book, since* three of the leading characters have similar handwriting.

The most moving passages take place inside the purgatory of Serena's head. Sane enough to know she is getting *crazier, she longs to* kill herself, but longings, like intention and memory, are fast slipping from her grasp.

It is a terrifying tale, and yet never as involving as the gritty crime novels that Hegarty writes pseudonymously, with their cast of mismatched policemen and solicitors. She is more at home among the lowlifes who skulk on late-night buses and collapsing inner-city estates than in the landscaped world of *Let's Dance*, which is at its most convincing when it lingers on George in his bleak hostel, situated in typical Fyfield territory.

PENNY PERRICK

Dog days in a political life

■ ON A CLEAR DAY
By David Blunkett
with Alex MacCormick
Michael O'Mara
Books Limited, £14.99

PROMISING as the cover appears — the Shadow Education Sec*retary crouches* chummily next to his glossy guide dog, Lucy — and despite David Blunkett's encouraging in*troduction, offering* "a thumbnail sketch of my life so far, with a great deal about guide dogs and a little bit about politics", this is *not* a book to satisfy James Herriot fans.

What Blunkett delivers is a lot about politics in Sheffield and, even under chapter headings such as "Paw *prints* in the House", not enough about *dogs in politics*.

What the book has, in its early chapters, is a clear description of the 1950s education of a blind child. Blunkett did not realise that he was *blind until he went to school*. Then he had to get to grips with it quickly because he went, at four, to a boarding school — there was no local *day-school education then for* the blind or partially sighted.

David Blunkett and Offa

At boarding school he learnt how to dress, *wash, and write braille*. There were consolations: learning to play cricket, with a bell-filled ball for easier tracking; learning to ride a bike without hitting walls, and reading under the bedcovers without a tell-tale torch.

Insights *into his* relationship with dogs are few, although we do learn that for Blunkett the mention of university always brings *to mind* the smell of "baking dog" (Ruby, the *first* of his four guide dogs, would dry off next to the radiator after duck chasing), and that Margaret Thatcher "did have a soft spot for Teddy". *Teddy, Blunkett's* second guide dog, that is.

BRIGID CALLAGHAN

Europe, don't you just hate it?

Andrew Roberts is a better historian than novelist, says **Douglas Hurd**. He should stick to biography

ANDREW Roberts began with a masterly life of Lord Halifax — shrewd, critical, yet fair. He was drawn early into that team of historians who use a reputation for scholarship to launch a vigorous parade of their own political views in the tabloid press.

Some of his admirers were a little troubled by his next book, *Eminent Churchillians*. Like its prototype, *Eminent Victorians*, this enjoyed an immediate success, but left a sour taste in the mouth. It must be pleasant to have pleased Jeremy Paxman (as the blurb claims), but debunking is a dangerous profession. After all, Lytton Strachey is good only for a giggle nowadays, while for serious people Florence Nightingale and Cardinal Manning are back in their niches. Lord Mountbatten will survive Roberts's attention.

So it comes as a relief that Roberts has now decided to separate fiction from history, and to publish this novel at the same time as he works on his next biography. Of course, there are inconveniences in this separation. If, for example, Roberts the novelist had consulted Roberts the historian, he might have discovered who the German Foreign Minister was in 1991. But Roberts the novelist has been allowed to canter around the course, and the result is a sustained polemic.

Once again there is a literary model — George Orwell's

■ THE AACHEN MEMORANDUM
By Andrew Roberts
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £15.99

1984. Horatio in AD 2045 is a fat and unattractive Englishman living in the English region of a European superstate. King William reigns only in New Zealand. The European stars fly over Attali Palace, and every aspect of life is governed by absurd and oppressive directives.

The final surrender to the superstate had been agreed at Aachen 30 years earlier in AD 2015, and ratified in a referendum. In Britain the "Yes" vote narrowly prevailed, thanks to a majority in the South. Horatio stumbles upon the corpse of an elderly admiral, and the mystery of this murder leads to the revelation that the referendum result was crooked, and that in fact Britain had voted "No". This discovery brings the superstate tumbling down.

Whatever one's views of the European Union, its institutions are not yet good at laughing at themselves, and satire is therefore salutary. I am not sure that this is what Roberts has in mind. He is too shrewd to suppose that there is a real danger of an oppressive United States of Europe such as he describes. Such a society is far different from anything Jean Monnet or his successors planned, and, in any case, for at least four years now, the nation states — not just Britain — have given unmistakable signs that we are close to the limits of the integration which is acceptable to them.

Roberts: non-existent threat

So Roberts's novel, unlike *1984*, does not describe a tyranny which really lurks round the corner. Indeed, Roberts sometimes seems to be satirising the fears of the Eurosceptics rather than the European Union. This is a pity. There is plenty of rhetoric to puncture in Europe, plenty of bureaucracy to ridicule. Roberts in a calmer mood would be well equipped for the task.

But what is important is his coming life of the great Lord Salisbury. I have faith in this. Roberts is a better historian than Strachey — and even Strachey in his second main work found that he had to be fair to Queen Victoria.

IAN REDMOND

Unforgettable: African elephants — "once inspired with devotion to Africa, you stop counting the favours she bestows"

Besotted heart of darkness

■ ROARING AT THE DAWN
By Brian Jackman
Swan-Hill Press, £19.95.

I ONCE walked for miles and days across North Luangwa National Park in Zambia and hardly saw a single animal. But it did not matter. It was not the point. And how the hell do you explain *that* to the folks back home?

Brian Jackman and I share the same mistress, and her name is Africa. Once inspired with devotion to Africa, you stop counting the favours she bestows when in benign mood. After a while, such things become more or less beside the point.

"The feeling that you could drive forever through this lovely country and never come to the end of it, or have enough of it..." Yes, Jackman understands all right.

The book is a series of forays onto the great continent, made over 20 years, a patchwork quilt of a book about the changing, unchanging land. The decline of the black rhinoceros; the resurgence of the elephant; the poaching wars. But above all, the bush. Its intoxication. Its madness. The tsetse bite of the wild that leaves its ravaged victims with a permanent yearning.

You can talk about the dramatic bits, when you get charged by elephant or lion, and Jackman does, without getting melodramatic. And you can talk about the various beers with the various mad people you meet in the wildest places, and Jackman does that too.

But to explain what it is that makes people mad, drunk with wilderness, reduced to a permanent teenage crush — that is hard. Jackman writes about "unbearable loveliness". No pyrotechnics here, but I felt the phrase cut like a knife.

Tush. I will be in Zambia soon.

SIMON BARNES

Jinx among the shrinks

■ THE DARK ROOM
By Minette Walters
Macmillan £15.99

LAST year Minette Walters won the Golden Dagger Award for the best crime novel of 1994, *The Scold's Bridle*, only her third book. It was generally agreed that she was one of the very best writers to have emerged in the genre for several years, the natural successor to P. D. James and Ruth Rendell. She has a lot of hype to live up to.

In *The Dark Room*, Jinx Kingsley, a successful professional photographer and daughter of a famous industrialist tycoon, awakes in a Salisbury clinic with no recollection of the past two weeks. She is told that she had tried to kill herself. Her fiancé, Leo, they explain, had jilted her shortly before the wedding, and gone away with her best friend, Meg. Distraught, she had drunk two bottles of wine and deliberately driven her car at speed into a concrete pillar. She was lucky to have escaped death.

Reaching into her damaged thoughts, Jinx cannot accept the official story. It was she who had wanted to end the engagement, not Leo, she senses. But, if she had not tried to commit suicide, what alternative explanations were there for her accident?

Mysteries unfold as Jinx's fragmented memory of the lost fortnight gradually, painfully, reassembles. Her traumatic past mingles with the frightening present. Ten years before, her husband, an art-dealer, had been bludgeoned to death: the killer was never found, although she had been a suspect. Now, the discovery of other bodies reopens the old case and starts the nightmares again. Jinx's domineering father, drunk stepmother and ne'er-do-well brothers have their own reasons for wanting her to believe the attempted suicide theory. Only the clinic's unorthodox shrink seems wholly on her side.

The Dark Room is as much a what-was-done as a whodunnit, the accumulation of forensic evidence paralleled by developments inside Jinx's mind. Walters handles the juxtaposition of the physical and the psychological with immense fluency; she establishes a mood of fear and uncertainty from the start.

Jinx herself is an emotionally bruised woman, not likeable but admirable in her insistence on the truth. Indeed, none of the characters is appealing, which heightens the detached atmosphere of this engrossing book.

The Dark Room is far from flawless. Jinx's relationships with her father, brothers and doctor are not convincing, and there is too much psychological repetition. But if there is a sense of disappointment, it is only because Walters set her own standards so high with her previous work. By any other benchmark, *The Dark Room* is a brooding novel of high quality.

MARCEL BERLINS

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Risky business

■ THE BIG BAZOOHLEY
By Peter Carey
Faber, £9.99

"LIKE most grown-ups, Sam Kellow's parents never guessed that their son ever thought about money." A shiver runs down my spine at the opening words of *The Big Bazoohley*, Peter Carey's first book for older children, because I have a feeling that this is a great book.

Sharing a hotel-hopping existence with a gambler father and an artist mother, eight-year-old Sam Kellow is worrying so much about money that he sleepwalks out of their Toronto hotel room. The door shuts noiselessly and unopenably behind him (who has not stayed in a big hotel and dreaded this happening?), and he is locked out in the corridor. What lies behind the rows of doors? Can Sam find a way to pay his parents' hotel bill?

A chain of fantastic yet alarmingly plausible events plunges Sam into the clutches of Mad Muriel and Droopy George, parents of Wilfred, a curly-haired angel who is all set to win a fortune next day. He is the favourite in a ghastly shampoo promotional contest in which children in evening dress have to eat spaghetti without a single splatter and do ballroom dancing as if they enjoyed it.

But Wilfred has fallen victim to chicken pox. He is also a dead ringer for scruffy Sam — and the evil pair plot to pass Sam off as their son, while Sam plays along in the hope he can somehow escape with the prize money to help his parents.

Of course, this *Prince and the Pauper*-style plan goes deliciously wrong, then beautifully right; beneath it Carey works through the contrast between urchin Sam, with his kind heart, and the "Perfecto Kiddo" hopefuls with their grotesque aping of adult behaviour. They are all trying desperately to enter the adult world — but only Sam is using his innocent wisdom to unlock the door. Consequently he is triumphantly revealed as the truly "perfecto" kiddo.

Many lovely touches include Carey's sympathetic handling of the adults. Even the wicked parents are more obsessed than purely evil. In one moving scene, Sam, on his way to the competition, spots his own parents and is appalled by how their anxiety at his disappearance has physically changed them. He longs to call out to them, to comfort them, but cannot, or his plan to save them will be ruined.

Carey weaves elements of modern children's lives — the power of money, the fear of strangers, the passion for "looking good" — into a magical uplifting tale. Above it all is his theme of risk-taking — the search for the big jackpot, the "Big Bazoohley" as Sam's father calls it. Carey has spotted exactly what is missing from the lives of children who are moved constantly from one child-centred Disneyesque attraction to another: the freedom to take a real-life chance. And he has turned it into the *leitmotiv* of a classic.

SARAH JOHNSON

TIMES BOOKS

THURSDAY

Transatlantic fiction: Bernard Levin on Arthur Miller; Claire Messud on Philip Roth; Rachel Cusk on Iris Murdoch

Mam and the art of mundanity

■ WRITING HOME
By Alan Bennett
Faber & Faber, £7.99

ONCE, on a Dublin bus, I overheard a woman complain to another about her good-for-nothing layabout of a son. "Well," said her companion, "why doesn't he go into demolition? There's a great future in that." It was, I thought, like a piece of dialogue from an Alan Bennett play. It had his hallmarked twist of unconscious irony and low cunning, and yet was not something that could be invented. It had to come from somewhere.

It came from Leeds, as it happens, where Bennett grew up in a family which knew the price of everything and never rose above its station. His mother, hereinafter called Mam, is clearly the source of those wonderful, fiercely-hatted female characters (invariably played by Thora Hird) who people his plays. Mam was a no-nonsense woman who emphatically did not believe that books furnished a room. On a visit to the Brontë parsonage one day in 1948, she was horrified not by the chaotic curatorship then evident, but at the *state* of the place. "Too busy writing their books to keep the place up to scratch," was her comment.

Writing Home collects the private jottings and ephemera of Mam's bookish lad. It was the publishing sensation of the decade, selling 200,000 copies in hardback and consists of some diaries, discreetly (I would guess) edited but nevertheless revealing, together with prefaces to his plays, some reviews and memoirs and odds bits and pieces of literary journalism. In any other context, one would call it a rag-bag. But in this case it has a unity which is as beguiling as it is mysterious.

Bennett's greatest merit is that, despite his astonishing talents and worldly success, he has never fallen into the trap of believing his own hype. And he has a wonderful eye for the ordinariness of things. One day in Camden he sees a woman buying violets. On being warned that they were past their best, she says: "Never mind. I only want to throw them down a grave." Looking out of his window one day, he notices that his dustbin has become so decrepit that the bin-men have taken it.

Bennett's public persona often suggests someone who expects little of humanity and is rarely surprised. Yet a kind of quiet passion occasionally invades the pages of *Writing Home* as he excoriates the excesses of Thatcherism or the jingoism of the Falklands campaign ("the Last Night of the Proms erected into a policy"). And always, always, there are the fruits of the acute observation which gives him that wonderful dialogue. In his television play about Kafka, *The Insurance Man*, he had included the note, "cut or shift elsewhere" in various parts of the script. It came back immaculately rendered by a BBC typist as "cut or shit elsewhere".

JOHN NAUGHTON

Valerie Grove is amazed and then entranced by a brutal Texan childhood

Turning white trash to gold

■ THE LIAR'S CLUB
By Mary Karr
Picador, £14.99

THINGS were not right in Mary Karr's family, she realised early. What was lacking was "some attentive, brownie-baking female to keep my hair curled and generally Donna-Reed over me". What she had was Charlie Marie, a mother with the unmaternal trappings of a bohemian Scarlett O'Hara; prone to conversions — Marxism, Buddhism, EST — and to spending her days slugging back the Smirnoff, reading *Anna Karenina* and wailing along with Bessie Smith on the gramophone about the shittiness of men.

"Mother had driven down from New York with an Italian sea-captain named Paolo, her fourth husband. She racked up seven weddings in all, two to my father." Father was a Texas working man, a picket-line brawler, a deadpan teller of tales, with a smattering of Indian blood. "The only Marx he knew was Groucho; the only dance the Cajun two-step."

Mary and Lecia, sassy daughters of this ill-assorted pair, grew up like savages, hollering "Kiss my ass" and "Eat me raw" to disapproving neighbours. When their bothersome grandma came to stay with them, dying of cancer at 50, Mary would regale anyone with tales of her gangrenous leg in return for a Popsicle.

The setting for this non-*Saturday Evening Post* childhood was a place called Leechfield, Texas: swampy oilfield country, prey to any passing storm, hurricane or tornado, and, as the manufacturing site for Agent Orange, rife with carcinogens. "In case you think I exaggerate Leechfield's overall nastiness," Karr writes, "*Business Week* once voted it one of the ten ugliest towns on the planet."

Karr: funny and riveting

When I started reading this book, I laughed aloud and thought what an inventive novel Karr had written. And then, with mounting incredulity, I realised that it was not fiction at all, but a memoir; and that all the stories of what should have been a hopelessly doomed childhood were true: the rape at the age of seven, the raging parents, the evenings punctuated by the sound of a body hitting the linoleum, mother's addiction to alcohol and amphetamines, the broken schooldays as the family moves west to where the men are still more feckless and the bars straight out of Edward Hopper.

Yet Karr loved those parents of hers, and has written a funny and riveting account of them. Mother, in particular, is an heroic figure, who believes that smart people suffer; happiness is for boneheads. Every thew and sinew of this embattled childhood is unsentimentally evoked by Karr's mastery of phrase and wit.

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CAMERA PRESS

Doris Lessing: autobiography of daunting candour

■ UNDER MY SKIN
By Doris Lessing
Flamingo, £7.99

THROUGHOUT *this* powerfully intelligent, haunting first volume of her autobiography, which begins by describing in detail her between-the-wars farming childhood and adolescence in Southern Rhodesia, *Doris* Lessing conveys her adamantine conviction that her destiny lay somewhere else, away from everything to do with her family.

She recaptures with passion and extraordinary vividness her early life in the African bush; but it is not only her own experience that she recalls. From the start, the future writer is intently watching others, especially her parents.

Rebellious, unforgiving daughter of depressed British settlers scarred in mind and body by the First World War, she vows to escape from their suffocating lives and influence. Schooling delays her, as do the marriages and babies that follow. Two children she leaves.

Even in the thick of "boheem" life among the impassioned Communists of Salisbury, campaigning, dancing, writing, making love and cooking for crowds, she is not satisfied. By the time she reaches London in 1949, with publication of her first novel, *The Grass is Singing*, still in front of her, Lessing has cast off from a startling number of ties that could have bound her.

What she has to say about doctrine, religion, sexuality, race, Empire, politics and war reveals the sources both internal and external for the life and writing. A book of fascinating, almost daunting candour, recommended to all readers of her books and students of her period.

GALLIA
MÉNIE MURIEL DOWIE

■ GALLIA
By Ménie Muriel Dowie
Everyman, £4.99

FIRST published 100 years ago and reissued to coincide with its inclusion on the 1895 Booker prize shortlist, this disarmingly candid book is quite unlike what you expect from a late Victorian novel. Gallia is a young woman with "attitude". Tough, independent, and sexually adventurous, she rages against the conditions that preserve society and against its prejudices. She scandalises drawing rooms with her support for eugenics and for prostitution. Her love life is equally unconventional, and the plot revolves around whether she will marry wisely, or follow the call of her heart. This fine novel deserves its public place.

■ VINLAND
By George Mackay Brown
Flamingo, £5.99

RANALD SIGMUNDSON, a young 11th-century Orcadian, stows away on a ship bound for the fertile shores of Vinland — a place he will always remember with longing, though his stay there is short. Further voyages to Greenland, Norway and Ireland, where he fights in the bloody battle of Clontarr, convince this fine young hero that killings and power struggles are not the purpose of human life. So he turns his back on the squabbling earls to farm and raise a family. But despite these efforts at domesticity, the island and the tall ships never stop calling to him. This moving saga of the land, the sea, the seasons and one man's spiritual quest is woven through with mystic lore and legend.

■ IN PHARAOH'S ARMY
By Tobias Wolff
Picador, £5.99

THIS IS the account of one man's descent into hell — the hell that was the Vietnam War. Wolff enlisted in the United States army because he thought it might offer a stability and purpose that, as a result of his disrupted and difficult childhood, he had never known. Soon he was serving as a young officer in a unit in the Mekong delta. The atmosphere there was rotten and corrupt, and Wolff submitted to it. The extent of his decline became apparent when he found himself eating a puppy rescued from a village, and felt nothing more than slight regret although he had grown fond of the dog. He still carries a "little bit of Vietnam within" in the form of persistent night terrors.

■ THESIGER
By Michael Asher
Penguin, £9.99

WILFRED THESIGER is one of the most distinguished explorers of this century: and perhaps in the romantic sense, the last. Every inch the Victorian throwback, he quested for "the things so much driven out of people's lives in England today" — courage, loyalty, endurance, hospitality and generosity — and found them in Arabia and the merciless demands of the Empty Quarter, one of the last regions of the Earth that remained unknown. Asher's tough, yet reverent biography captures perfectly the fierce independence that made such a heroic life possible but also the arrogance, myopia and misogyny that fired that independence.

■ DAISY BATES IN THE DESERT
By Julia Blackburn
Minerva, £6.99

JUST before the Great War, Daisy Bates, 54, upped sticks and set off to the deserts of South Australia to make a new life with the aborigines who lived there and she spent the rest of her days (she lived well into her 80s) with them. It was an extraordinary act of courage and resourcefulness in any age but for an Edwardian Irish matron it was remarkable. Blackburn finds in Daisy Bates a character whose self-mythologising makes conventional biography impossible: instead she enters Mrs Bates's eccentric world and through a compelling narrative — part fiction, part fact — gives voice to a woman who reinvented herself.

Contributors: Alison Burns, Jason Cowley, Nicki Household, Lucy Lethbridge, Jake Michie

A recipe for brute savagery

Something nasty was cooking in New York's Hell's Kitchen in the 1960s, says **Isabel Wolff**

■ SLEEPERS
By Lorenzo Carcaterra
Century, £15.99

MILAN KUNDERA wrote famously about laughter and forgetting: Lorenzo Carcaterra writes, by contrast, about weeping and remembering. Spanning three decades from the early 1960s to the present day, *Sleepers* is a savage story of violence and revenge. It tells the story of four small boys growing up in "Hell's Kitchen", a violent part of New York and the setting for *West Side Story*. But this is the New York of Martin Scorsese rather than Leonard Bernstein.

Hell's Kitchen is portrayed as a paradigm of urban toughness, where rival gangs — Puerto Rican, black, Italian and Irish — slug it out to the death. And yet, in those pre-crack-crazed days, a kind of morality prevailed. Crime was internecine and not directed against ordinary people; drug use was frowned upon and pushers were likely to be lynched. But for many, Hell's Kitchen was a place of unspeakable brutality where the mob ruled and alcoholic husbands routinely beat their broken-down wives.

The four boys featured in this story, John Reilley, Tommy Marcano, Michael Sullivan and the narrator, Carcaterra, are all the products of such domestic strife. Coalescing with tribal loyalty, they shun the violence of gang life for a sparkier street life of their own. But a prank with a stolen hamburger cart turns to tragedy when they send it crashing down a flight of steps, crushing an elderly man. Justice is meted out in the form of a spell in the Wilkinson Home for Boys, a reform school of Gormenghastian horror.

But the crimes of the young offenders are as nothing to those of the guards who routinely humiliate, thrash and rape the 400 boys in their "care". One black boy, Rizzo, is even beaten to death for scoring the winning goal in a football match between the inmates and the staff.

When, 12 years later, Reilly and Marcano, now gangsters, encounter one of these guards in a downtown bar, they wreak their revenge there and then (with ten bullets). They are put on trial for first-degree murder but ironically it is their friend Michael Sullivan, now an attorney, who is hired to prosecute them. Will he do his job and send them down, or pervert the course of justice — and destroy his career — to protect his pals?

Sleepers is a tough read: it offers little more than a grim catalogue of shootings, knifings, beatings and rapes. At times it reads like a screenplay of *Pulp Fiction*, without the jokes. Some of it is a little too self-consciously macho — we are told, for example, that "in Hell's Kitchen death was the only thing that came easy". But Carcaterra's cold, staccato style suits his savage story, a story which is all the more shocking for being, apparently, true.

POPLAR BOROUGH
COUNCIL

Cool customers: ragged children in the summer of 1910 take advantage of a municipal watercart. From *Edwardian London* by Felix Barker (Laurence King, £24.95)

The voices of treason

■ THE FABER BOOK OF TREACHERY
Edited by Nigel West
Faber, £17.50

THE EDITOR of this anthology is the Tory MP Rupert Allason, whose entry in *Who's Who* gives as his recreation "sailing close to the wind". Under the pen name Nigel West, he has often acted thus in his controversial writing on the secret services. In this anthology, he seeks to illustrate the theme of treachery by quoting passages from the published work of selected individuals, grouped under the countries that they supposedly or actually betrayed.

The countries represented are Britain, the Soviet Union, the Soviet satellites, America, France, Israel and Germany. Significantly there is no section for Japan or China.

The German section is short, partly because "during the Second World War, the Allies adopted a deliberate policy of discouraging potential defectors" — none being thought capable of matching the information from Ultra and the double agents handled by MI5 and SIS — but also because most Germans, including anti-Nazis, preferred to fight for the fatherland. Fabian von Schlabrendorff, who tried to assassinate Hitler, endured after the war "much hostility" for doing so. His contribution, one of the best in the book, describes how his attempt miscarried because his British-made bomb failed to detonate.

There are many other good pieces, in a variety of genres, reflecting the differences of character and motivation among those who have committed treason. John Vassall, for instance, who was blackmailed into becoming a Soviet spy, writes grippingly of his arrest in 1962. There is a vivid account by Victor Kravchenko, one of the most famous of the Soviet defectors, of the machinations of the NKVD in the factory where he worked.

Vassall: blackmail victim

Whittaker Chambers, who betrayed his former party comrades, agonises eloquently over the predicament of an ex-Communist convinced that it was his duty to inform. Herbert O. Yardley was a brilliant cryptologist, who seems, however, to have been a venal character with no fixed loyalties. His burial as an American national hero was richly incongruous.

West has done a good job on the whole, but there are lapses. Most serious is the inclusion of passages from Roger Casement's "black diaries", revealing his obsessive homosexuality. These were used against him at the time of his trial in 1916, but now, as then, should be regarded as irrelevant to his treason.

JOHN GRIGG

Incest, lust and lies — **Maureen Owen** on what happens when the nuclear family goes fissile

Genes that fit too tight

■ FATHER OF LIES
By Janet Inglis
Constable, £15.99

ONE of the virtues of Janet Inglis's disturbing first novel, *Daddy's Girl*, was that, while the seduction of an underage girl seemed a suitably dramatic cargo, the ship carrying it explored an entirely new literary coastline. While others pontificate about family breakdown, Inglis cold-bloodedly charts the restructuring.

In this, her second novel, we see what could happen when the divided family comes together again in the next generation. A product of the 1970s divorce boom, Olivia had been 14 when she took part in brutal and provocative sex with Nick, her mother's slobbish new husband, and 16 when she disappeared to Canada with Georgie, her baby daughter. Inglis chronicles the impact of Georgie's reappearance on her English relatives.

Now a strait-laced university lecturer, Olivia has married a Canadian doctor whom Georgie, an anthropology student, believed to be her father. But a trip to St Catherine's House proves otherwise.

While probing the missing years, Georgie develops a passion for her "half-uncle" — "genetically, a half-uncle is no closer than a second cousin". But the genetics involved turn out to be more complicated than expected. When Nick appears on the scene and proceeds to indulge in various wild sexual encounters with both mother and daughter, painful memories are excavated.

Throughout, Georgie cites arcane tribal practices: "In the Old Testament, all the patriarchs married their cousins" and, more perturbingly, "If your father was a sperm donor, you could be related to half of London".

In combining a taboo subject with the deculturisation of the nuclear family, Inglis sometimes overeggs the pudding. But it is rare to find a book that affects you sensually and affects your mind. Besides which, as an understrapper of family culture, she has perfect timing.

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5	ENIGMA **Robert Harris** *(Hutchinson)*	£15.99	4	3
6	COME TO GRIEF **Dick Francis** *(Machael Joseph)*	£15.99	6	3
7	COMING HOME **Rosamunde Pilcher** *(Hodder)*	£16.99	7	7
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AUDIO BOOKS

Time to dance

■ A DANCE TO THE MUSIC OF TIME
By Anthony Powell
Read by Simon Callow
Hodder Headline, £7.99
(3 hours each volume)

THE FIRST three books of Powell's 12-part classic are released together. Condensation of *A Question of Upbringing*, *A Buyer's Market* and *The Acceptance World* means that favourite sequences end on the cutting-room floor. It also highlights how much Powell, like Dickens, relies on extraordinary coincidences to keep the stories moving. Whenever a bespectacled figure looms, you can be sure that Kenneth Widmerpool, who shadows the narrator Nicholas throughout the *Dance*, is about to make an appearance. Widmerpool is convincingly portrayed by Simon Callow, but he is less at home as the narrator, whose voice is not described in the books. Callow struggles in these early tapes to find the right voice for Nicholas. Perhaps he will settle down as the *Dance* continues.

■ THE HIGH WINDOW
By Raymond Chandler
Read by Elliott Gould
Redback Audiobooks, £7.99
(2 hours 43 mins)

LA'S MOST famous private eye, Philip Marlowe, watches the bodies pile up and the blondes slink, each more deadly and desirable. At denouement time, the motives and explanations take almost an entire cassette side to untangle. No matter, Elliott Gould's voice is a perfect match for Chandler's classic, the fourth novel in a compelling sequence.

■ LOVE LESSONS
By Joan Wyndham
Read by Sophie Thompson
Reed Audio, £7.99 (3 hours)

THE TERRORS and uncertainties of adolescence in wartime London are lovingly chronicled by this rather awkward Chelsea Bohemian. Bombs, love and primitive birth control are her obsessions, but through it all Joan Wyndham's curiosity and determination to be herself shine through.

■ THE GOBBLER
Written and read by
Adrian Edmondson
Reed Audio, £9.99 (5 hours)

YET another "grotesque hero for the 1990s" is how the blurb describes Julian Mann, a comedy actor on the skids who abuses all around him. Edmondson has a keen ear for dialogue and knows how to construct and deliver comic scenes, but after a while boorish, outrageous behaviour is just . . . well, boring to listen to.

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NEW ON VIDEO: Perfect idiots at play; Audrey Hepburn sparkles at Tiffany's; torture victim seeks revenge

■ DUMB & DUMBER
First Independent, 12, 1995
JIM CARREY and Jeff Daniels rack up a fair number of laughs as two hapless friends with scarcely two brain cells to rub together, though they might have managed more had Peter and Bob Farrelly, the film's devisers, injected variety into the script. There are jokes about laxatives, urine in beer bottles: this is not Noël Coward. But the film delivers what it wants to sell, and the schoolboy humour is always good-natured. Available to rent.

■ BREAKFAST AT TIFFANY'S
CIC, PG, 1961
EXQUISITELY dressed by Givenchy, Audrey Hepburn sparkles as Truman Capote's madcap heroine Holly Golightly, living in a whirl in New York. The widescreen video format helps director Blake Edwards's sight gags to flourish (he is particularly good at parties), though it does not help to hide Mickey Rooney's embarrassing portrayal of the buck-toothed Japanese upstairs. Henry Mancini's moody score, *Moon River* and all, adds to the film's general appeal.

■ NELL
PolyGram, 12, 1995
COMMITTED performances from Jodie Foster and Liam Neeson as the backwoods wild-child and the doctor who tries to shield her from the worst of modern life. The script's serious thoughts emerge sounding trite, and nature's wonders are thrust in our faces. Sympathetic direction by Michael Apted; but you need a sweet tooth to swallow this. Available to rent.

Fools rush in: Jim Carrey and Jeff Daniels star as the brainless duo in the good-natured *Dumb & Dumber* — "this is not Noël Coward"

■ THEY WERE SISTERS
Carlton, U, 1945
"THERE are millions like you, walking in and out of trouble, but in the main muddling through," coos Phyllis Calvert's kindly hubby. Take no notice: vowel *sounds, fur coats*, grand staircases and a melodramatic suicide all proclaim this film an upper-middle-class fantasy. Still, within limits, this Gainsborough drama is delicately wrought, and James Mason's sadistic husband adds some acid to the rosy sentiments.

■ MARY FOREVER
Art House, 18, 1988
"A STORY of brutality, exaggerated *masculinity and forbidden sex*," the sleeve notes. But Marco Risi's film, shown theatrically as *Forever Mary*, deserves a larger audience than sensation seekers. Italian neo-realism roars back to life in this moving drama of bad doings in a Sicilian reform school, vigorously played by a cast plucked by the director from the streets.

■ THE CREEPING FLESH
A Taste of Fear, 18, 1972
WOULD *you inoculate your daughter* with serum from a re-animated Neanderthal finger? Professor Peter Cushing does, and look what happens. Absurdity runs rampant through this British horror film set in the Victorian era, but director Freddie Francis pulls off the thrills with morbid aplomb. To increase the shivers, Christopher Lee co-stars as Cushing's brother, manager of a mental asylum.

■ DEATH AND THE MAIDEN
PolyGram, 18, 1995
POLANSKI'S best work concerns people in enclosed spaces, and his prowling camera feasts on the beach-house setting in Ariel Dorfman's play, where a torture victim in South America subjects her possible torturer to a mock trial. Sigourney Weaver is commanding as the vengeful Paulina; Ben Kingsley mixes arrogance, reason and guile as the targeted doctor. But *without the electricity of a live* performance, Dorfman's material seems a debate with clever speeches, not a drama with people. A rental release.

GEOFF BROWN

From silents to a scream

Geoff Brown is enraged by rock accompaniments to classic films

The film season is called *Hear No Evil*, but we probably will. For the silent classics on show this month at the South Bank are not being given the reverential accompaniment we might expect from Carl Davis and a symphony orchestra, or one of the National Film Theatre's pianists. Instead the films, all horror or fantasy, will be *plastered with avant-garde* jazz and techno-rock, served up by glamorous performers scarcely fitted for the anonymity most accompanists accept.

Mark Dresser, an American double-bass player, opens proceedings on Monday by scraping, plucking and sawing *through The Cabinet of Dr Caligari*, supported by prepared piano, sax and clarinet. Then John Cale, late of the Velvet Underground, will amplify the torments of Tod Browning's bizarre *The Unknown* by meandering around three keyboards. To judge by its world premiere last year, you are in for the musical *equivalent of a stomach ache*.

On Hallowe'en, the French quartet Art Zoyd, who have previously bombarded the German classics *Nosferatu* and *Faust*, will take aim at Benjamin Christensen's quasi-documentary about witchcraft, *Haxän*. At the time of writing, the fourth performer, Aphex Twin (alias Richard *James), has not yet chosen the* work upon which he will lavish his artistry on Friday 13.

Aphex Twin's dithering puts the situation in a nutshell. The performers matter more than the film. The seaon's publicity gloats over the sounds we *might* expect — "like standing in a power station on acid" — but gives few details of the film-makers, and none about the provenance or quality of the prints. The event is part of *The Centenary of Cinema on the South Bank*, but it is not much of a birthday party when the guest of honour is pushed to the side.

True, the conservative school of silent-film accompaniment has its vices. Some scores have been timid, some too cloying, with too many cues overworked: my head still aches from the hammer blows of *I've Been Workin' on the Railroad* in John Lanchbery's *music for The Iron Horse*. But even at their worst, such pastiche scores let the images breathe; and at best they fuse with the film, sweeping the spectator to new heights of emotion.

Fifteen years after *Napoleon*, the no-frills presentation of silent cinema is becoming a rarity. The 1984 release of *Metropolis with an anodyne* rock score by Giorgio Moroder paved the way for pop experiments. Now you cannot move for bash bands or ranks of synthesisers committing murder upon the German classics or some charming Buster Keaton comedy.

The sounds are generally too loud for the images, and *often wilfully ignore the flow* of a scene. The performers call this counterpoint; I call it rudeness.

● *The* Hear No Evil *season begins at the South Bank Centre, London, on Oct 9 (0171-460 4242)*

NEW ON CD: Young tenors come head to head; Zender reconstructs Schubert; Malcolm Arnold with swagger; Simply Red tailored for a safe market

[illegible]

John Higgins

■ ROBERTO ALAGNA
Popular Tenor Arias
London Philharmonic Orchestra/Armstrong
EMI CDC 5555402★★★

☐ BEN HEPPNER
Great Tenor Arias
Munich Radio Orchestra/ Roberto Abbado
RCA 09026 62504 2★★

TWO OF the most sought-after tenors of the rising generation have recital discs out this weekend. Roberto Alagna and Ben Heppner are both in their thirties, the little and large of the business. Alagna is neat and boyish, a romantic hero; the burly Heppner is ready to take on the toughest roles. Fortunately, their repertoires to date show little overlap and the only aria duplicated on these two records is the Flower Song from *Carmen*.

Alagna: shows a jolly face

The Alagna collection has been most carefully chosen. There is a solid base of the young lovers on which his reputation has been established: Puccini's Rodolfo, Gounod's Roméo. Then a hint of what is to come: Massenet's Werther, due next season. Finally, there is an excursion into the remoter corners of French music, which Alagna has always championed, with numbers from Gounod's *Polyeucte* and Rabaud's *Marouf*. Not exactly in the "popular" category of EMI's title, but never mind.

Apart from the immediate appeal of his voice, fresh and sensuous, Alagna really knows how to build up an aria. Those fragrant head tones slowly well up into a ferment of emotion as the audience-catching high notes come near. Werther's *Pourquoi me réveiller* is a prime example, impeccably done. The death of Faust from *Mefistofele* shows Alagna's ability to give every note its just weight, never hurrying. After Massenet is under his belt, Boito should surely follow. It is arguable whether *Marouf*, an Egyptian nights comedy by a disciple of Massenet, is worth a place but it gives Alagna a chance to show a jolly face among heroes regularly facing death and *damnation*. Richard Armstrong's conducting, full of theatrical panache, is a plus.

Ben Heppner's recital seems specifically designed to show that he is not just a singer of Wagner, the composer who has been the cornerstone of his career so far. No German arias here. Puccini seems the next obvious stop for him. Des Grieux's first glimpse of Manon, *Donna non vidi mai*, shows that he is not just a beefy tenor with limitless stamina: there is the lyrical sheen that so distinguished his Walther in *Meistersinger*. And the way he handles *Ch'ella mi creda* marks him *as a natural Dick Johnson the* next time anyone puts on *Fanciulla*. The Verdi items are less happy, with some unidiomatic phrasing which his conductor, Roberto Abbado, might have corrected.

Heppner: lyrical sheen

And the Flower Song? Alagna wins for his lightly floated opening, full of infatuation, over Heppner's much bluffer approach.

VOCAL

Hilary Finch

■ HANS ZENDER
Schubert's Winterreise
Ensemble Modern/Blochwitz
RCA 09026 68067 2 (2 CDs)★★

DEPENDING on your point *of view, this is either the* ultimate stimulus or extreme sacrilege. A year ago in the Queen Elizabeth Hall, the Ensemble Modern gave the world premiere of a "composed interpretation" of Schubert's song-cycle *Winterreise*, written and conducted by Hans Zender. Schubert's piano score was broken up *into kaleidoscopic fragments* of sound and image as instrumentalists wandered round the hall, and a lone soloist sang — and sometimes spoke — his way through the cycle. Now we have the disc of the happening.

The snowball of the first song coalesces from a snowflake patter of pizzicato, per*cussion and plucked guitar*. By the third verse, when the dogs have begun to howl, a veritable hound of the Baskervilles is unleashed in the band, and the stanza is transformed into a vicious jackboot of a march. In the process of transformation, Zender shows *a keen ear for Schubert's own* musical "ciphers", and the seeds of later Expressionist styles in the music begin to sprout already in his instrumentation.

The fragmentation of a song's material, Webern-like, through several solo instruments is, perhaps, a *little* overdone, as is Zender's initially striking use of accordion and wind machine. And by making overt so much that is implicit in Schubert's sound world, less is inevitably left to both the singer's (tenor Hans Peter Blochwitz) and the listener's *imagination. But I* have to admit, I am becoming *very nearly as devoted to this*, in its own right, as to the great original.

☐ SCHUBERT
Schwanengesang
Skovhus/Deutsch
Sony SK 66835★★

AND NOW the real thing. The young Danish baritone Boje Skovhus tackles Schubert's late *Swansongs* with the fresh and lively enjoyment of a distinctive voice which really *sings*. A *Cradlesong* and a final, trotting *Farewell* show Skovhus's sensitivity to rhythm and to the lilt of the word along the melodic line, and this is complemented by the energy and perception of Helmut Deutsch's piano playing.

Occasionally Skovhus tries just too hard. His meticulously enunciated words are spat out, for instance, in the gentle *Taubenpost*, and disturb the warm breezes of *Spring Longing*. But his voice is dark and weighty enough to carry *Der Atlas*'s full burden of world sorrow, lyrical enough for the yearning of *Her Picture*, and *intense enough to bring* a white glare of terror to the vision of the *Doppelgänger*.

ORCHESTRAL

Barry Millington

■ ARNOLD
Symphonies Nos 5 & 6
London Symphony Orchestra/Hickox
Chandos CHAN 9385★★★

ONE OF a number of composers whose traditional, tonal music is coming back into favour is Malcolm Arnold, and we can expect to hear a good deal more of his music in 1996, his seventy-fifth year. That is *no* more than it deserves, for Arnold, despite his exuberant occasional pieces — not to mention the Grand, Grand Overture for three vacuum-cleaners, floor-polishers, four rifles and orchestra — is a composer to take seriously.

Arnold: to be taken seriously

Richard Hickox and Chandos have done just that by adding this new recording of *Symphonies Nos 5 and 6* to those of the four earlier symphonies. The Fifth is an enormously impressive work, teeming with ideas and vitality. The composer was not alone in expressing reservations about the naively sentimental tune of the slow *movement that returns in* glorious technicolour at the climax of the finale. But this Mahlerian outpouring is not as naive as it seems. There is a palpably ironic edge to it, and it is precisely the tension between these unashamedly emotional elements and the darker, more disruptive moods that make Arnold's *symphonies the fascinating* and rewarding experience they are.

Both the Fifth and the Sixth are hugely enjoyable works, with strong, old-fashioned melodic material and tireless invention. Each is influenced to some extent by jazz, but *there is also a sober tempering* of the high spirits with an *unmistakably pessimistic tone* that ultimately gains the upper hand.

These performances, by the London Symphony Orchestra and Hickox, opulently recorded in Chandos's inimitable style, could hardly be bettered. They capture both the exhila*rating swagger and the dark* underside, and can be warmly recommended to anyone willing to give Arnold's music a try by jumping in at the deep end.

JAZZ

Clive Davis

■ DIZZY GILLESPIE
Birks Works — The Verve Big Band Sessions
Verve 527900-2 (2 CDs)★★★

THE ZANY stage manner, the wisecracks and the famous *ballooning cheeks (which once* aroused the curiosity of a NASA scientist) helped make Dizzy Gillespie the most recognisable of jazz masters. Those same attributes also tended to distract attention from his acute musical mind. Showmanship — as all his associates knew so well — was only one small aspect of his art.

Verve's packaging of three mid-1950s records — *Birks Works, Dizzy in Greece* and *World Statesman* — goes some way to filling a suprisingly large gap in the Gillespie discography. Although his reputation had been established through his pioneering work with Charlie Parker, his trumpet playing reached full maturity a decade later, around the time that he tried his hand once more as a big-band leader.

Gillespie: acute musical mind

By this point bebop was no longer the language of an esoteric minority. Gillespie's arrangers — headed by Ernie Wilkins, Quincy Jones and Benny Golson — have no problems in finding common ground between the dyna*mism of bop soloing and the* plush ensemble swing of yesteryear. What is more, this is no showcase for the leader's gifts alone: Golson, Lee Morgan and Wynton Kelly all make the best use of their openings. And in case anyone expected a Gillespie band to be *all fireworks and staccato* brass, Phil Woods's discreet legato phrasing traces the graceful contours of *Yesterdays* before the leader bursts back to the forefront on one of the most compelling versions of *Tin Tin Deo* ever captured on disc.

☐ ORNETTE COLEMAN
Tone Dialing
Harmolodic/Verve 527483-2

WITH every Coleman release come yet more frenzied attempts to pin down a definition for that most nebulous of non-forms "harmolodics". What is obvious is that, if the all-embracing ideology has its attractions on paper, in practice it means reducing everything, from rap to Bach and Free Jazz, to soundbites of stupefying banality. The Em*peror not only has no clothes*; he died of hypothermia many moons ago.

POP SINGLE

David Sinclair

■ KEZIAH JONES
Million Miles from Home
Delabel/Virgin
7243 8 93172★★

A SONG about the effects of physical amd emotional displacement. *Million Miles from Home* marks the welcome return of wandering spirit Keziah Jones.

"Who knows where we're all *from?" muses the expatriate* Nigerian singer-songwriter, now living in London, who made such a promising impression in 1992 with his debut album, *Blufunk is a Fact*. On this song — a taster for his new LP, *African Space Craft*, released on October 16 — Jones's dark, *soulful voice rises above* a sleek combination of bluesy *acoustic guitar, funk bass and* acid-jazz drums, all rattling along at such a tremendous clip that it sounds, at times, *like a rootsier version of* Jamiroquai.

Jones: wandering spirit

There is a convincing jungle mix of the same song, followed by an intriguing B-side, called *1914 My Ass*, which finds Jones rapping in freestyle, Gil Scott-Heron mode. "Negroes getting rich and fat, hyping information," he rants in a tone of impatient disdain, against a backdrop of squiggly Jimi Hendrix wah-wah guitar licks. The precise target of his wrath is difficult to make out, *but the mood of righteous* indignation is clear enough.

POP ALBUM

David Sinclair

■ SIMPLY RED
Life
eastwest 0630-12069★

SIMPLY RED'S fifth album succeeds not so much as pop *or soul music, let alone art, but* more as a modern lifestyle accessory. And when a collection of songs comes so carefully tailored for the mass, middle(-aged) market as *Life*, the cut of the musical cloth is inevitably more Man at C & A than Savile Row.

Mick Hucknall is in fine vocal form throughout. *Whether reaching for some* high, throaty ad libs towards the end of the meandering *Out on the Range*, or turning on his sultry "have-you-seen-my-bedroom?" voice for the more intimate groove of *You Make Me Believe*, he has his chops down pat. The musicianship, likewise, is faultless, and special mention should go to Ian Kirkham *for his sublime saxophone* on *Lives and Loves*.

The doubts creep in when you look beyond the obvious quality of the workmanship for signs of any depth. It is not to be found in the lyrics, which offer the usual *seduction* routines ("Fulfil all my *fantasies/Moisten* up all my warmest dreams") and pseudo-spiritual platitudes ("In the end God is the universe and the universe is you").

Nor is there much of consequence in the music itself. From the relaxed pulse of *Hillside Avenue* — an affable reggae song that will appeal to people who get on with UB40 — to the portentous finale of *We're in this Together*, a Michael Jackson-type message of solidarity with mankind, there is plenty of melodic *poise but little heart*.

The standout track, by some distance, is *Fairground*. An unusual song, propelled by a quietly sizzling riot of Brazilian percussion, it conjures a delicious air first of mystery (in the verse) and then of joy (in the chorus). It has, of course, already topped the singles chart, so most people have probably heard the best of *Life*. Here is the rest.

★ *Worth hearing*
★★ *Worth considering*
★★★ *Worth buying*

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Harvest of tall stories short on fact

FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

The one thing I am going to miss when I eventually cease to be a farmer is being able to step instantly and effortlessly on to what might be called the "moral high ground".

To give you an example: when I have been late for a meeting, through disorganisation or lack of interest, I have been able to apologise and mutter, "calf in the ditch; terribly lucky to get it out. Sorry to be late". It never fails to work. All sympathy is focused on the calf. I am the hero, and everyone forgets the time. If all the people to whom I have given that apology were to get together, they would conclude that this farm spends most of its time giving swimming lessons to livestock. If it's you, I am sorry.

But there are more private pleasures, too. Last week I had to meet media moguls in that corporate television headquarters on the South Bank in London. As I crossed the threshold, which regularly sees everyone from David Frost to Cilla Black, it gave me some personal pleasure to look up at all 20 storeys and think to myself that I was probably the only person there that day who had buried a dead sheep before breakfast. A silly, private pleasure; but the sort of thing I would miss if I were to give up farming.

Of course, some retiring farmers never come to terms with the loss of their land. I know of one who foolishly thought that when he owned land, he somehow had "a position in the community". He assumed this from the deferential way the Scouts knocked on his door pleading to set up a camp, or the humble manner in which the organisers of the annual church ramble asked permission to trudge through his thickets. In truth, he had no position at all. Everyone had the measure of the man and turned his grandiose notions to their advantage. It was easy. Call him "sir" for long enough when you met him in the street and it was no time before he lent you a meadow for a football pitch.

I have never been in that league. No one has ever turned up here, doffing their cap. I have no status to lose. Instead, the only thing I have been able to offer the community is gossip. Naturally, we were heavily gossiped about when we first came here; it was said that I was opening a themed adventure park, with wild animals. In a way, I suppose that came true. But now we have been the focus of the gossips' attention for more than a year. Apparently, sages are touring the area saying that they knew for certain we were leaving the farm more than a year ago. This is a remarkable bit of soothsaying, of which even Mystic Meg would be proud, because it is only a few months since the thought first crossed our minds. The other bit of gossip which has developed a huge head of steam is that "they've 'ad the bailiffs in". This, I have to admit, is based on some visual evidence. It is true that a man in a suit was seen to arrive on the farm, ask for the keys of our aged Land Rover and drive off in it. Ah, Watson! It could only be the bailiffs. Actually, it was Roy the mechanic, who does the MoT and service. He had come to collect then vehicle, doubtless on his way to the in-laws for a smart night out. The Land Rover was returned two days later; but the professional gossips never seem to add that sort of evidence to their theories. Nor did they spot that such is the decrepit state of the vehicle that no respectable bailiff would be seen dead with it. As far as settling debts go, it is nearly worthless. It would be like the receivers going into Barings and seizing the ballpoint pens.

I suppose there will be more rumours, so let me issue a few denials before they gather too much ground. For a start, I am not and never have been Lord Lucan. Working a traditional farm, with carthorses and usually covered in muck, would, I admit, be a jolly good cover, and I bet Lucan, if alive, has often wished he'd thought of it. Nor is it true that our senior carthorse, Star, is in fact Shergar who has put on a bit of weight. I must also deny that I gambled away all the winter fodder on the derivatives market in Singapore, that I am the fifth Beatle or that infamous spy the Sixth Man. Is all that clear?

Initially, I was somewhat taken aback to discover that I have been the focus of so much rumour but, having got over the initial shock, I am turning it to advantage. My text is the showbiz adage that "the only thing worse than being talked about is *not* being talked about". So I have taken to telling everyone who asks a different story as to the future of this farm.

Consequently, you may hear that I have had a bid from Disney, sold the farm outright to a sect of yogic flyers, refused an offer from Damien Hirst for the sheep, or am in talks with Bill Wyman, who has decided he likes pigs after all and wants to buy Alice. Or, if you are especially favoured, you may hear about the visit from a dark-haired man with a rugby physique, and a mystery blonde dressed in Lycra.

Our local is called The Bell, and it is where, sooner or later, all these rumours will come together. You will doubtless hear chimes from where you are reading this.

Just as Mostyn's wetland and marine life is beginning to recover, further industrialisation poses a renewed threat

The sea slug fights back

MARC ASPLAND

Despite the industrialisation between the protected wetlands and the sea at Mostyn, north Wales, wildlife has clung to survival. Now, dredging for shipping could put the area at risk

The coastline around Mostyn on the Welsh side of the River Dee estuary is environmentally one of the unluckiest places in Britain. Over the past five years, the village has suffered from the construction of an oil refinery on its doorstep, three fatalities in the 1991 floods, the disruption caused by the laying of a seabed gas pipe and, Greenpeace claims, levels of marine radiation 100 times higher than in the suburbs of Chernobyl.

In December 1991, an application to expand Mostyn Docks into the Dee estuary proved too much for many local environmentalists. Three thousand protest leaflets were distributed, a resident action group was set up, and enough opposition mounted to warrant a month-long public inquiry, which ended last August.

The proposals are to dredge a two-kilometre channel out into the estuary, reducing the need for ships to rely on tides for docking, and to transform Mostyn Docks from its small role in the timber and steel trade into a roll-on, roll-off ferry port and terminal for heavy industry.

Having endured the previous industrialisation, the area's wildlife is just beginning to recover, under a daunting set of EC directives.

Living in one of Britain's 6,000 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), a Special Protection Area (SPA) for birds, and recognised as wetlands of international importance, the wildlife around Mostyn has been duly rewarded for its resilience. Shrimp levels are up, the beach at nearby Talacre has received a yellow flag for cleanliness, and the much-neglected sea slug is making a tentative comeback from the brink of extinction.

Sea slugs were hardly designed to spearhead popular campaigns but, in this case, they furnish Mostyn with a fitting symbol of protest.

Dusty Donlon, head of the residents' action group, drives an open-topped "combat" vehicle, which gives a misleading image of the place. The philosophy of Mostyn locals, a villager says, is: "If you miss something today, it will still be there tomorrow."

The Mostyn Docks proposal threatens this maxim, and the equilibrium of residents and wildlife. Encroaching 8.7 hectares (about 21½ acres) into the protected mud flats, and dredging up 300,000 tonnes of material to form the docks' foundations will, says Friends of the Earth, disrupt the sand beds and cause irreversible damage to wildlife.

"The quality of the River Dee has only recently started to pick up," says Norman Watson, of Friends of the Earth. "Dredging up the flats will put toxins back into the food chain."

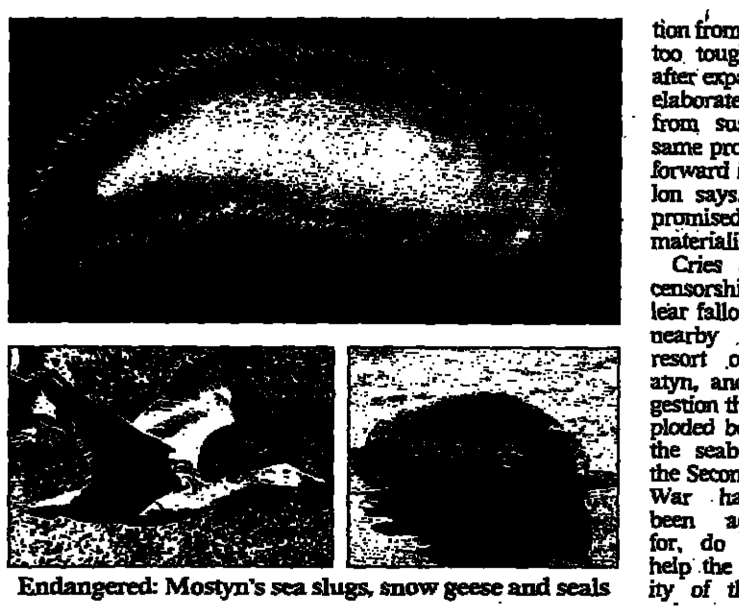
He says, too, that that if the silt hits the fan for a second time, zinc and plutonium residues will splatter across wildfowl feeding areas and increase the spread of radioactivity along the coast of north Wales.

Delyn Borough Council, which administers Mostyn, has supported the expansion proposals, arguing that there is a need for jobs in this area of high unemployment. "The docks would pass any test of international legislation," says Barry Davies, a solicitor acting for the council, which denies that radioactive debris in the bay poses any threat to wildlife.

"The proposed area for development is about eight hectares out of 9,000, wholly disproportionate to the claims being made," Mr Davies says.

In terms of reclaimed land, the cost may be small, but the effect on peripheral wetlands could be disastrous, says Tony Prater, of the RSPB. "The docks would permanently remove 25 acres of feeding area, as well as having an impact on at least 300 metres of land to each side of the proposed channel.

"The River Dee is among the five most important sites for waders and wildfowl in Britain, and among the ten most important in the whole of Europe."



Endangered: Mostyn's sea slugs, snow geese and seals

Local fishermen claiming historic rights over parts of the estuary have felt the effects of industrial growth more than most. Jim Mealor says: "My grandfather and father could go out in the morning and come back at lunchtime with a full catch of cockles and shrimps. Now I can't even catch enough out there over a whole day."

Disturbed fishing grounds could put Mr Mealor out of work. But, without expansion, the existing docks are threatened with closure and the loss of 40 jobs. In the end, competition from Liverpool may prove too tough for Mostyn even after expansion, fuelling some elaborate conspiracy theories from suspicious locals. The same promises have been put forward in the past, Mr Donlon says. Local people were promised jobs but very few materialised.

Cries of press censorship, nuclear fallout at the nearby holiday resort of Prestatyn, and a suggestion that unexploded bombs on the seabed from the Second World War have not been accounted for, do little to help the credibility of the campaigners. But the threat of outside contractors stealing local jobs is a genuine concern. And an increase in heavy goods traffic, depleted tourism and plunging property prices are all worries for residents.

It is true that the Mostyn coastline is no longer beautiful. Standing on a railway bridge in the hamlet of Ffynnongroyw, two miles from Mostyn, is like perching on a rose between two thorns. To the left shimmers the smoke and cranes of Hamiltons' oil refinery; to the right stands the small-scale eyesore of the existing docks. But in the middle stretches two kilometres of unspoilt wetlands. The scene is not idyllic, but it is home to migrating snow geese, 200 seals and more than ten endangered species, which include the sand lizard and the sea slug.

"If we let Mostyn go," says Joyce Warrington, a resident, "what will happen to the other nine protected sites?" The outcome of the public inquiry, to be announced in six months, will set an important precedent.

The Mostyn Docks case is a messy one, with residents set to lose out on all sides. But the symbolism of the dispute, for environmentalists at least, is clear: if you miss something today, tomorrow you might find it gone for ever.

> ❛Dredging the flats will put toxins back into the food chain❜

EMMA BROCKES

NOMINATE YOUR FAVOURITE HISTORIC PROPERTY

The Times/NPI National Heritage Awards

In Britain we have a heritage of which we are justly proud. Now *Times* readers have an opportunity to choose what they consider to be the very best.

The Times, in association with pensions specialist NPI, one of the UK's leading providers of pensions, are launching the NPI National Heritage Awards. For the first time, members of the public can judge which of our many national monuments or cathedrals deserves special recognition.

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The overall winning property will be presented with a crystal trophy by Lord Inglewood, under secretary of state at the Department of National Heritage, at a ceremony in London next April. Lord Inglewood said: "I hope all those who visit a property, whether for the first time or re-visiting a favourite haunt, will participate in the nomination scheme. I am very much looking forward to presenting the awards when we can celebrate the best of our national heritage."

All nominations will be entered into a free prize draw for the chance to attend the awards ceremony with a guest, staying overnight at one of London's top hotels. There will also be twenty runner-up prizes of a coffee-table book illustrating historic buildings worth £20 each.

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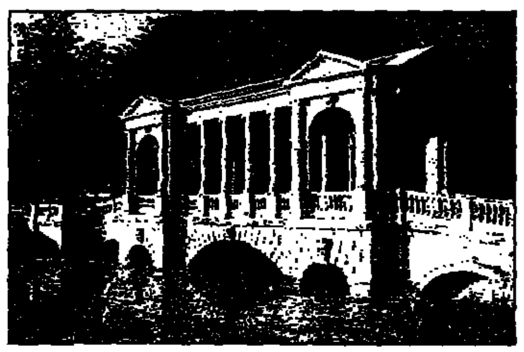

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NPI

Displays before bedtime

Feather Report

Jackdaws: aerial stars

THERE are few sights more cheering than a little flock of jackdaws stalking briskly around some sheep, their eyes gleaming and the autumn sunshine bringing out the soft grey of their caps. They are such lively birds, pouncing on a beetle here, leaping up to catch a dung-fly there, forever on the move.

They are quite unlike the rooks they sometimes mix with. While the jackdaws pick up all their food from the grass, the rooks dig steadily into the ground for worms and leatherjackets, and their progress across a field is far more stately.

When they are startled and all fly up from the field, the two species also behave quite differently. You get a few protesting caws from the rooks, but the jackdaws fire off a positive salvo of indignant clackings, and the whole sky seems in uproar for a moment.

There are probably about three million jackdaws in Britain at the beginning of October, including this year's surviving youngsters. But during the next few weeks their numbers will be swollen by winter migrants from Scandinavia.

They roost at night in woods, often with rooks and crows, though the jackdaws usually stay in a separate clump of trees. Before they go to bed they give spectacular flying displays, tumbling out of the sky like volcanic debris, then righting themselves and wheeling and shooting up again, with a cannonade of wild clacking.

They fly all day around the cathedral roofs in Paris and Florence — but not around London's St Paul's. The fields are too far away.

DERWENT MAY

● **What's about:** *Birders — Watch out for flocks of mixed tit species in woodlands. Twitchers — yellow-rumped warbler, Tresco, Isles of Scilly; cream-coloured courser, Grouville, Jersey; Siberian stonechat, Cley, Norfolk. Details from Birdline 0891 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute cheap rate, 50p at all other times.*

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Always on Page 2 and in Weekend Money

After this year's scorcher, **George Plumptre** plans ahead for plants that welcome the heat

Summer survivors that warm to burning

It took only a little early autumn rain for our parched, brown lawns to green up, and for all thoughts of the long, scorching weeks of summer to be confined to the memory bank. Well, almost; gardeners are at the forward-planning stage for next year and it is a good idea to retain a picture of this summer to assist in the choice of seed and plant.

My garden has depressing holes, where plants could not stand the drought and heat, and shrivelled. There is, however, a selection of cheerful survivors, still flowering, which not only coped with the conditions, but thrived.

We may not have another blazing summer for a decade, but these plants will do well when we have a more traditional mix of summer sun and showers. I suggest they should all be candidates when you are filling out your seed orders for next year, or visiting a nursery to look for shrubs to replace this summer's losses.

Among the plants I grew from seed this year, two excelled in the drought: *Cleome spinosa* and *Gaura lindheimeri*. Both are native American plants, but I saw them growing superbly as border plants in a summer garden in South Africa last January. Some catalogues advertise gauras as hardy perennials, but I suggest that, like cleomes, they are best grown as half-hardy annuals. Sow the seed under glass in March and grow the seedlings on before hardening them off and planting out in June.

Cleomes are an outstanding addition to any border, growing to about 3ft high. The stems are hairy — and watch out for the thorns that grow at the base of each leaf stem. The pinnate leaves are similar to those of the potato, but the plant is grown for its rounded balls of flowers in shades of white, pale pink and deep (almost cerise) pink, which measure 3-4in across. The best white-flowered variety is 'Helen Campbell'.

The common name, "spider flower", for cleomes derives from the unusually long stamens, which stick out well beyond the flower petals. Dotted along a border, which is better than growing them in clumps, cleomes produce highlights of colour that mix with almost anything, and they can flower until the first frosts arrive.

The habit and appearance of the gaura is different. The seedling grows to a shrubby plant, with lots of stems that arch outwards and produce a mass of small, white, pink-tinted flowers. The arching stems can make a plant of about 3ft high and across.

The gaura is ideal for planting near the front of a border, where the stems can curve out forwards. Like the cleomes, once the hot weather started my gauras began to grow and flower spectacularly, and have continued flowering through into early autumn.

I have two plants of the shrub *Ceratostigma willmottianum*, one of which has been in for three years. They are invaluable for their delightful, small, blue flowers, which appear from late summer into autumn, but in past years their annual growth and quantity of flowers has been limited. This year, the hot, dry conditions produced spectacular results. The older plant, in particular, grew to almost double its size, and has flowered profusely. Even now it is still producing new flowers, and where they have finished the stems are left with delicate, feathery tips. Given that it never grows to a great size (my larger plant is about 3ft high and across), it is suitable for mixing with herbaceous plants, as well as other shrubs, and will continue a border's life into autumn, when the foliage takes over and turns a rich shade of red.

I am not a devotee of all buddleias, but one that I have always admired is *B. crispa*, which should be grown as a wall shrub. Its stems and distinctly grey leaves have a pale, woolly covering and the pale lilac flowers are more delicate than most buddleias, and produced in smaller, more rounded panicles than most types.

Many books and nursery catalogues suggest that *B. crispa* is half-hardy but, if planted in a suitably sheltered position against a sunny wall, it should be hardy.

I had one in my last garden and its progress was painfully slow, perhaps because we had a succession of cool, often damp summers. This spring I put in a new one and set it against a southeast-facing brick wall, where the late summer conditions have encouraged it to grow and flower impressively.

This will be its first winter, so given that it has grown from about 1ft to 4ft, I will take the precaution of covering it with Netlon, because it would be a shame to lose its spectacular progress in summer to intense winter cold.

Because we are used to gardening with regular rainfalls which, when necessary, we supplement with hours of summer watering, so we fill our borders for late summer with phlox, begonias, Michaelmas daisies and other such thirsty characters. We feel that summer abundance in the garden depends more on moisture than heat, and in cases it does. But there are plenty of plants that are happiest when the sun burns down week after week. With this year's examples in mind, it will be enjoyable to experiment and look forward to next year's summer garden.

MARTIN BEDDALL

The half-hardy *Cleome spinosa* produces balls of flowers, about 3-4in across, in varying shades of white and pink

WEEKEND TIPS

- *Lift yellowing gladioli, cut off the stems, dry corms, rub clean, label varieties, and store in a cool, mouse-free place.*
- *Stop damping down greenhouses; keep well-ventilated.*
- *Continue potting spring bulbs for indoor display.*
- *Dry off potted lilies and hippeastrums.*
- *Begin digging vacant parts of the vegetable garden, and apply lime where necessary.*

GARDEN ANSWERS

STEPHEN ANDERTON
replies to readers' letters

Q **Mrs M. Bennett of Horsham and J.E. Baggenstos of Southgate have written to say how bad woolly aphid has been on apple trees this year, and would like to know how to treat it.**

A Woolly aphid is a small, sap-sucking insect which attacks apples, hawthorn, cotoneaster and sorbus in particular. It has also been noticeably bad on pyracantha this year. The insect protects itself with a white woolly covering, and can cause cankering and distortion of branches. Badly cankered branches are better cut out. The young insects overwinter in cracks in the bark, and tar oil wash will help to reduce them. Smaller trees can be painted with malathion or methylated spirits early in the season, or use an insecticide such as dimethoate.

Biological control is better, such as the parasite *Aphelinus mali*. It is not commercially available in the UK, according to Dr Michael Copland of Defenders, a biological control supplier. So before rushing to spray, look to see if there are any blackened, parasitised insects on your trees. Try looking for them on someone else's tree, scrape some off and introduce them to your trees.

Q **I recently bought two purple Cordylines, *C. australis* 'Purple Tower' and 'Torbay Red'. I realise they are tender, but I would like to keep them outside during the winter.** — Mr W. Davies, Taverham, Norwich.

A Cordylines — the New Zealand cabbage trees — make great rosettes of long strappy leaves. Wet and cold combined will be your enemy, almost more than cold itself. If your plants have wall shelter, erect a temporary frame of polythene or bubble film. In bitter weather, stuff the frame with screwed-up newspaper.

Q **I have a ten-year-old 'Bramley's Seedling' apple which seems to be dying. The leaves are half brown and the fruits small. Mine is close to three hedges but the soil is good. Should I cut it down?** — *Jennifer Roberts, Dawlish, Devonshire.*

A The tree may have a fungal infection and, the blotchy leaves suggest a scab infection. But before you do anything drastic, give the tree a chance to fight the hedges. Next March make a ring of foot-deep holes 6in apart around the perimeter of the tree where the feeding roots are and fill them up with a slow-release fertiliser such as Enmag or bonemeal. Check for scab and spray accordingly. If it shows no signs of thanks, plant your new tree elsewhere.

- *Readers wishing to have gardening problems answered should write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington St, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.*

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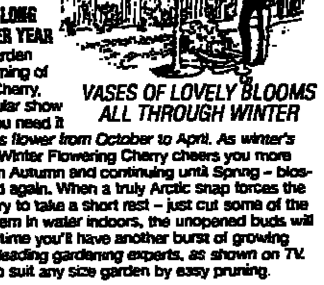

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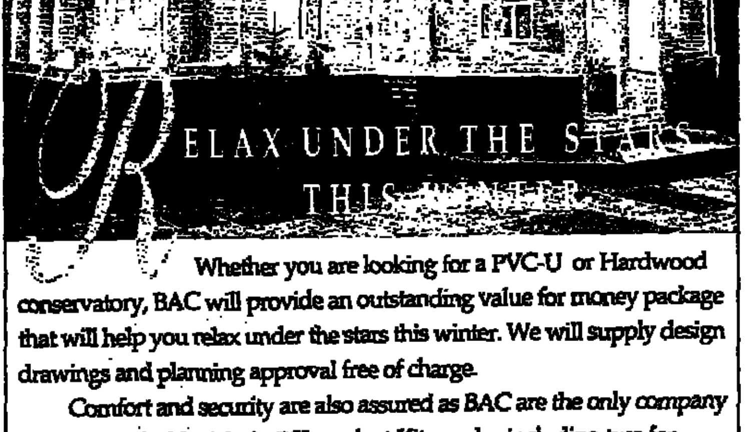

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ARE there any men in N. Somerset without emotional baggage? I am early 40s, slim, 5'3", very capable, attractive, amusing, n/s, no children. Well travelled & educated. Want friend, plus more, maybe. Letter & photo please. Reply to Box No 0424.

ATTRACTIVE lady 40s, slim, solvent, social likes tennis, golf winters abroad. Box No 0639

LADIES

ARE you an extremely hunky looking guy, height 5'8-6'1, a great tennis player, living in London aged between 40-50, single, hetrosexual, looking for a true love match with very attractive similar (slightly smaller) edition? Please enclose full length photo. Box No 0641.

ATTRACTIVE brunette in her thirties who loves travel, bridge, theatre and walking WLTM caring man (thirties/ forties) with zest for life and love of family. Photo appreciated but not essential. Box 0464

ATTRACTIVE, articulate, stylish and amusing graduate (40) seeks professional Christian man with drive, direction, the Holy Spirit and GSOH (35-45) n/s. Cambs. Box No 0526

ATTRACTIVE professional lady, late 30s, GSOH, n/s, South Coast WLTM gent 30s-40s. Interests, theatre, good food and wine. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 0608.

ATTRACTIVE witty, outgoing, slim blonde, 41, 2 kids, solvent, very social. SE based, seeks similar man pref younger. Loves skiing, tennis, people, music. Reply to Box No 0634.

BLONDE intelligent, green eyed, lovely, curvy, 22 year old, 5'8 WLTM attractive male, slim, over 5'10, 24-34 for romance. London, Photo pls. Box 0471.

BOOKS matter more than food? Personable prof F (48 - looks younger, honest) seeks warm, funny man, prof/acad, N/S, arts-mad, London. Box No 0507

COME on guys don't be shy, Sussex professional lady, petite brunette, seeking 47-57ish male, articulate, presentable, single and solvent with a zest for life and a GSOH to share her limited leisure time with. Go on be a devil! Box No 0556.

COTSWOLDS professional woman loves outdoors seeks male company 30s ish. Please Reply to Box No 0644

CRUISE social directoress, blonde chic in her 50s now in dry dock needs a handsome captain to sail into the sunset. Send your passport for future happiness. Box No 0268

DESIRABLE, warm, dynamic brunette. Tall, early 40's, London-based, no ties seeks similar N/S male companion with GSOH to share time in and time out. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 0654

ELEGANT widow, charming country house, cultural interests, seeks prof. gent. 60+ for theatre and dining out. Staffs/ Derbys. Plse Rply Box No 0159

EXCITING 28 year old, tall, sporty lady seeks professional male for fun & romance. VGSOH. Sussex area. Replies and Photos to Box No 0361.

EXTRAORDINARY special woman seeks man to share life and happiness together. I'm fortysomething, fun to be with, loves good company/wine/ conversation/music. London/S.East preferred. Please Reply to Box No 0521

FUN loving very early 50's. Thames Valley lady. Considered attractive, n/s, ex public school with a medical background needs to be cherished by professional gentleman after 2 unhappy years. Must enjoy classical music, and home cooking. Photos appreciated Please Reply to Box No 0571

HAMPSHIRE area. Attractive, slim, blonde, late 30s, GSOH wishes to meet good looking, unattached professional man 36-44. Photo please. Box 0343.

HAPPY, warm hearted, finely tuned teacher of music, violin and piano, seeks "Beau" for her "Strad" Age 40-55. Enjoys art, stately homes, languages and tennis. Reply to Box No 0287.

HAPPY affectionate, curvacious lady. London/Surrey. GSOH, n/s, enjoys the good things of life seeks permanent relationship 50+. Box No 0440

HAPPY attractive prof slim 48 curvy v.warm, 5'6, artistic. sks Arts loving sensitive, slim, n/s. Photo S.Herts/N.Lond Bx 0003

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LADY 65 slim, caring, n/s, seeks gentleman for companionship and lasting relationship. Please Reply to Box No 0221

LONDON based glamorous lady, late 40s, ex fashion model, now businesswoman, enjoys cooking and home life, loves children, animals, countryside, travel and the arts, don't mind dressing up for the social scene. Looking for meaningful relationship with professional businessman 55-65, kind with a sense of humour. Photo appreciated. Reply to Box No 0627.

LONDON based, early 40s, n/s, fair, 5'7, Univ educ, independent, lively, easy going, fairly left of centre. Interests incl. vis arts, film, contemp lit and issues,- wine,walking, a wide variety of music (plays cello), travel. WLTM a lively minded, reflective, independent man 40-50. Photo apprec. Box 0497.

LOVELY lady both in looks and nature, 50s, WLTM intelligent attractive man to care for her and accompany her to the theatre, cinema, dinner, walks by the river etc. In return I will love you dearly. London area. Please Reply to Box No 0286.

MANY ATTRACTIVE Ladies in The Midlands' Exclusive Hospitality Company, extensive social events calendar. Tel Exclusive Co. 01564 778200

MEN- Stop writing to one lady, when one phone call can introduce you to over 300 stylish ladies from 23-75 all in the West Midlands. 99% of men join, you won't believe until you see! Elite 0121 386 2234.

MIDLANDS attractive, retired, nursing sister, widow, WLTM male 50s-very early 60s to wander through arcadia. If not laughter will do. Box No 0673.

MOST attractive, naturally fair, public school, well spoken, artistic, country lover, also London wishes to meet same social background - up to 70. London/Devon/Home counties. Reply to Box No 0465.

N.EAST 3 prof unattached men 40-60 wanted to join us for a Saturday night dinner party. Good food and drink with interesting company. Details to Box No 0648.

NW SCOTLAND Anglo Scot, 36, public school, widely travelled and thinking Christian, now overworked professional, 65kg, 6ft6, n/s, seeks gentleman with similar outlook to share dreams, conversation and laughter. Occasional adventure optional. Box No 0289.

OFF the wall, on the ball, sporty, sunny, Jewish honey, pretty, prof, (35) WLTM, tall, bright, bookish Jewish, check-shirted, warm-hearted hunk (28-40) Please Reply to Box 0631.

PETITE, slim brunette, 30, very busy but lonely, is longing to meet tall, witty, intelligent man, 30-45, for dinners, theatre and inspiration. Likes: long walks, wine, poetry. Dislikes: moustaches, bad cooking. Photo appreciated. Box No 0608

PETITE attractive 36 yr old widow, bubbly, VGSOH, WLTM special man 35-46 to share life with. Must be n/s, honest, prof, intelligent, GSOH and like children. London/S.E. Photo and letter please to Box No 0261.

THE TIMES
cannot guarantee that respondents will receive a reply when answering advertisments on this page, although we hope that as a matter of courtesy they will. When making contact with people for the first time it is advisable to meet in a public place and let a member of your family or a trusted friend know where you will be.

We would advise readers and advertisers to exercise caution when giving out personal details. This will be respected by genuine respondents.

PISCES 40, 5'7", single working mum, Oxbridge, n/s, t/l, travelled. Seeks honest partner, London/Surrey, for b/dancing, bridge, and good clean fun. Please Reply to Box No 0364

PLENTY of fish in the sea, but who wants to cuddle one? Woman, good-looking, graduate, professional, intelligent, kind, artistic, 38, 5' 9", would not care as sole mate for Piscean business. Est be similar, unhooked, brown/ black hair and eyes, up to 45, London/ SE. Photo please to Box No 0525

PORCELAIN or plastic? Couture or chainstore? Sincere or shallow? Late 50s female seeks imaginative, witty male to reply. Please Reply Box 0481.

POSITIVE slim, easy going, caring lady, likes gardens, houses, travel, seeks kind, solvent gentleman, 60-65, not too serious and with sense of fun. Please Reply to Box No 0252.

PROTECTIVE male sought by slightly zany woman graduate (French/ International Relations), 49, considered attractive, for love, laughter and commitment. Living Kent, willing relocate UK/ abroad. Box No 0586

RARE blend. Intelligent, beautiful, unusual, artistic lady, 45, sophisticated yet natural, valuing body as well as mind, seeks her equal. Only reply if you're a match for me: a fit, affluent, cultured man of adventure & integrity who seeks a partner, friend & lover. Letter & photo please. London/ Somerset/ Norfolk. Reply to Box No 0616

SHAPELY lovely, vibrant, educated widow 55, writes, acts, teaches, lots to offer, entertaining yet gentle, affectionate, seeks professional, cultured thinking man 50-67 with literary/ artistic interests, lively personality. London/Thames Valley. Reply to Box No 0602.

SLIM attractive green eyed brunette (late 30s), enjoys socializing, having fun, seeks prof male 35-48 photo appre. Box 9414.

SOUTH AMERICAN single white professional graduate female, 34, 5'6", n/s, old fashioned romantic, caring, sincere, honest and loyal. Seeks a professional graduate, warm affectionate and sincere gentleman to share reading, travels, cinema, theatre and many other interests, for a lasting relationship. Photo preferred. Please Reply to Box No 0617

SOUTHERN Comfort required. Petite feminine Midlands lady 45 varied interests especially travel and harbours. WLTM intellectual OFR gent without ties. Pref tall 48-60 Further South or coast for monogamous Romance/ marriage. Box 0360.

SPIRITUAL Healer, a very fit 83 interests include reading autobiographies & writing letters seeks pen pal male or female. Please Reply to Box No 0432

SURREY based widow, 46, seeks n/s partner for daytime activities. Please Reply Box 0272.

WEST Sussex widow, 54, tall and fair, WLTM, kind, cuddly, cheerful chap with intelligence manners and SOH. Please Reply to Box No 0518

TALL, slim, professional woman, late 30s. Has a sense of body and soul - Christian values. Enjoys town and country - walking, golf, good food and conversation, theatre, films and poetry. WLTM similar man. London / Surrey Box No 0628.

VERY attractive, warm, happy woman, 49, WLTM relaxed, caring man, 48-58, n/s. I have a GSOH, my interests include self development, yoga, music, nature, theatre and cinema and just being. Box No 0091.

VIBRANT blonde lawyer, youthful 41 in need of TLC seeks witty special man with GSOH to enjoy life with; likes cinema, theatre, eating out and in, weekends away, travel and watersports. London based. ALAWP. Reply to Box 0603.

WARM caring retired lady graduate, 60ish, outgoing, slim, active, enjoys walking, countryside, travel, friends, home life, seeks well educated man, N. Midlands. Box No 0663.

WOMAN 44, intelligent, professional, outgoing (but acquainted with grief) needs intelligent man of integrity who is equally presentable. Those who feel it necessary to mention their GSOH need not reply. Box No 0483.

WRITE and tell me why you think you might deserve this very attractive, tall, stylish, artistic, sensual, warm and imaginative 49 yr. old woman, who is ripe to begin a new life, anywhere. Under 50 please and no charity shop dressers! A photo would be a bonus. Please Reply to Box No 0593

GENTLEMEN

AARDVARK I am not, but at least my ad's in first. 31, tall, sporty and witty type who wouldn't normally write this. WLTM stimulating, attractive, caring & genuine person who wouldn't normally read this. Photo appreciated. Reply to Box No 0618. P.S. Read no more

A Caring mature successful businessman. Interesting lifestyle, lively personality, GSOH, kind supportive seeks a slim petite young lady 18-36 for a lasting rewarding fun loving relationship and lots lots more if compatible. Suit a lonely pretty young female who prefers the older more experienced male who knows what life's all about. Totally genuine and sincere. London/Essex/Herts area preferred but not essential. Phone number/Photo helps. All letters answered. Box No 0392

ACCOMPLISHED, courteous man, 6ft, musician, 44, emotionally, financially secure, n/s, no ties, seeks similar uncomplicated, active, woman who loves to ski, walk, cycle, and attend opera, ballet. SE/ London. Please Reply to Box No 0527

AFFECTIONATE TDH n/s man 42 seeks intelligent, attractive, romantic lady 30-40. Interests include travel, food/wine, the arts, sports, daughter 12, son 10. Photo please. Box No 0580.

GENTLEMEN

AFFECTIONATE professional, successful, mature gentleman, with jolly pleasant personality and many interests, based in south Manchester seeks young, slim, unattached pretty woman with body and brain in harmony. Must be warm and affectionate, for friendship, fun and laughter. Enclose photo and telephone number please. Reply to Box No 0284.

ALONE & bored, successful businessman very good looking 43 but looks 34, blond blue eyes 5'10", fit, loves travel, food, film and all sports seeks 28-35 slim professional woman with strong personality to romance. Please Reply to Box No 0412

AMERICAN in England, intelligent, GSOH, successful, loving, 40, and romantic. Interests include: skiing, golf, travel, good food & wine, nights in and out, fireside fun, and much more. Seeks very assertive lady with intelligence, imagination, and a love of life and pleasure for fun times and hopefully a lasting relationship. WLTM. Box No 0371.

AN answer to your primary question where are all the decent men? Here's one: Positive, Genuine, Reliable gentleman, 5'10", loves music, dance, theatre and sport, 46, but still plays badminton and tennis, even does yoga. Divorced but SOH intact, seeks special woman, n/s, with similar outlook for mutually enjoyable relationship. SE England. Photo appreciated. Box No 0347.

A Rare opportunity, sensuous, single slim, sporty, humorous, tactile, businessman, seeks female counterpart for wining, dining, laughter. Please send photo, letter & Tel no. Reply to Box No 0573.

A relaxed, laidback pilot, 45, athlete, graduate, allegedly attractive, divorced, seeks intelligent independent attractive female. S. England. Reply Box No 9713

ARE you a bright, attractive, articulate and warm-hearted professional/academic woman, seeking a caring relationship, marriage if compatible, and willing to consider the possibility of starting or extending a family? If so, why not contact creative, successful Oxbridge man (56), no ties, busy life-style but interested in classical music, theatre, travel, sport (watching and taking part) and keeping fit, gardening and the arts generally. Photo appreciated and returned. London and SE area. Please Reply to Box No 0684.

ARE you late 20s, attractive and tall? Apart from one thing, you're life has it all. Stylish, sensual, adventurous and fit? Read on tomorrow for more about it... Box No 0462.

ARE you looking for an honest prof, n/s, sporty, sincere, 33 yr old male? Write with your tel no & photo. Help me find what I am looking for. Box No 0862.

ASIAN professional, 50, smart young looking. Interests painting books, theatre, cooking seeks pretty petite lass for warm kind companionship. Photo appreciated. Box No 0624

A SOMEWHAT tatterdemalion knight in rusty armour, n/s, p/s Oxford who enjoys country living, travel, skiing, music, theatre, seriously seeking someone/ soulmate?, similar tastes, probably 50+, SW/Southern counties. Tel no essential. Box No 0810.

AS Summer glides to a close this tall, amusing, attractive, sensuous Bath man, 40, seeks a younger woman to share the Autumn Gold. I love music, travel, cinema, theatre, entertaining at home and restaurants, the countryside and clubs at night. I am romantic and fun to be with. Let's cuddle each other in front of a log fire and have some delicious enjoyable times together. Please write to me with your telephone number to Box No 0398.

ATTRACTIVE successful healthy, wealthy, wise entrepreneur, just 50, semi retired, spending time vetting, classic car racing, seeks unencumbered brave, attractive 30s lady to share good music, wine, food, company, humour, travel and big boys toys. Oxon. Berks. Hants. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 0505.

ATTRACTIVE sporty, tall, fit intelligent, professional male, 30s, seeks confident, elusive lady to share and enjoy life. Country walks, world travel and dinner parties are on my agenda, yours too? If so please reply to Box 7966. Midlands.

20 ATTRACTIVE MEN Pub sch. single profs. 30s-early 40s on my house party guest list. A few more attractive, prof career girls 30s would even the odds. Private house/party. Strictly and only invitation. Patricia 0181 392 9009 wkend/eves.

ATTRACTIVE Indian Doctor 50, financially stable, with varied interests WLTM fun-loving white/Asian female WSOH for long term relationship/ marriage. London Area. Please Reply to Box No 0477.

AVIATION professional, 54 looks 45. Slim, fit n/s, considered attractive. Gentle, caring, affectionate, sensuous, solvent, practical. GSOH. Healthy lifestyle and varied interests. Long marriage amicably concluded, children at University. Seeks new life with a soulmate to cherish. Informative letter with photo and phone no. essential. Surrey, Berks, Bucks, Middx. Please Reply to Box No 0396

CARING solvent 40- ish male seeks well-educated/ travelled, attractive, sporty, slim/ fit, n/s, 30- ish female for togetherness, eventual family. Box No 0588

CHAP; tall, slim, intelligent and articulate in mid-40's with great sense of humour, not looking forward to autumn/winter evenings alone, seeks compatible female companion with whom to share intellectual pastimes and trivial pursuits. If you are in the SE (M25 16) then letter (photo appreciated) guarantees reply. Reply to Box No 0346

CHARMING, younger man, 28, slim, graduate, seeks stylish older woman. London/Berks. Photo please. Please reply to Box No 0475.

CLWYD Treeman, 68 acres, own business, english, 40, looks younger, 6ft, skinney, divorced, one daughter. Seeks bright, funny, attractive female, under 40, preferably living nearby. Interests: countryside, laughing, sunshine, prunes and staying at home mostly. Photo and Tel No appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 0406

CROYDON professional, mid 50s, romantic, affectionate, wide interests, n/s, WLTM lady seeking permanent relationship. ALA. Photo a bonus. Box 0276.

CULTURE Vulture Continental bon-viveur living in Bayswater, young and fit 66, wants to spoil and cherish lover - of music - in her fifties. Box No 0609

E. MIDLANDS. Attractive, intelligent, professional woman, late 50's, approaching retirement, enjoys good company, good food, good books, travel, theatre. WLTM gentleman for shared interests. Box No 0645

EDUCATED, cultured American prof male, 43, single. Interests in theatre, music, dining, museums, exploring London & countryside. WLTM single, attractive, prof female, n/s, 28-36, 5ft 2 - 5ft 8, for sharing time, with a view to possible permanent relationship. London/Surrey pref. GSOH an advantage. Recent photo appreciated. Plse reply Box 0414.

END empty weekends! Intriguing at ease man, silken-voiced tender tactile tall zealous prof 54, rebuilding life wants soulmate also ardently seeking lasting antidote to sensual starvation who values space in 2 home relationship nr W. Lon. Slim curvy photo? Box 9495.

ENGLISHMAN with wide interests (but not pets, sport or marriage) seeks busy, petite, London based, professional Indian/ French/ English woman, 45-55, for companionship over weekends in Avon. Grateful for short note, photograph and telephone number to Box No 0808.

ENGLISH gentleman living in London and country seeks attractive lady 35-45 with love of the good things in life who can help him match his shirts and ties. Photograph essential. Please reply to Box No 0660.

ESCAPE with me and travel slowly port to port around warm Mediterranean countries. Its a lot of fun - in my boat! I'm happy, healthy, retired early, solvent, vigorous 50 seeking an adventurous wife. Box 0615

FUN homeloving, rather disorganised mother S/W Finds idyllic country life socially dead. Seeks man 40s amusing, clever attractive tolerant, Christian. Please Reply to Box No 0467.

GENTLEMAN 51, good looks, unattached, 6ft, well spoken, educated, nice house Surrey, enjoys countryside, homelife, many interests, as tonnes of TLC. My downfall [illegible] Seeks very affluent lady, age unimportant for permanent friendship, companion or relationship. Reply Box No 0658

GENTLEMAN 38, got everything except money & you? Please Reply to Box No 0309.

GENUINELY nice, successful guy, 42, VGSOH, seeks happy, attractive lady, mid 30's to share enjoyable lifestyle. Photo plus letter, guaranteed reply. London/SE. Please Reply to Box No 0368

GOOD looking. Extremely successful wealthy businessman. Oxford graduate, 47 (but looks much younger), 5'9", slim, n/s, no ties or dependents, has all the kit (sports cars, place in the country) but not the girl to go with it. You will be attractive, a graduate, intelligent (the two are not synonymous) with no dependents & looking for a stable, long term, committed relationship. Photo essential, no photo, no reply. Box No 0444.

GOOD looking man, 42, graduate, interests include classical music, theatre, seeks attractive, sensitive woman, perhaps a bit younger, for warm, tender, lasting relationship. London Area. Please Reply to Box No 0374.

HAPPY young man (45) seeks interesting lady 30-45. I'm Paul a tall n/s professional with a wide range of interests based in Central London. Box No 0553

HEART Of Gold, in heart of England with hugs to give and silences to share, yearns for fair maiden upon whom to lavish untapped reservoirs of affection and warmth. Age 38, happy, healthy and humorous, tall, slim, solvent (no yacht!) professional, n/s, eagerly awaits replies from special ladies in their 30s. Situated Warks/ N'hants/Leics border. Photo appreciated. Box No 0330.

HERTS Widower, 40s, needs to care and be cared for, I'm a generous, relaxed, creative, well-educated, successful professional of medium height. N/s, with a well-developed sense of fun and many varied interests. My ideal is someone in her 30s/ early 40s, cuddly, independent, accomplished in her career or academic field and, like me, with few family ties. Box 0512

HERTS, based doctor, well established 40's with class and style, seeks feminine, tall professional lady. Plse Rply to Box No 0801

KIND and considerate, financially secure, country loving professional, living W. Surrey, young 50, seeks slim, attractive lady 35-40 to love for ever. Photo appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 0433.

KIND, handsome, mature, very solvent businessman with GSOH, follower of The Road Less Travelled, seeks soulmate for further journeying. Currently Banbury based. Photo and wish list to Box No 0690

"LADY C" sought by mature (58yo) 'Mellors' with VGSOH, solvent, attractive (and all that stuff). My interests are your interests. Photos plse. Box 0682

LAWYER (38) tall, extrovert, charismatic, good sense of humour, sincere, looking for an interesting professional female. Please Reply to Box No 0463

MANCHESTER/NW but regularly travels. Good looking, fit male, early 40s and divorced. Highly successful and solvent with literally everything but the girl! Seeks attractive, classy female, 28-40 with that extra something. Photo essential please. Reply to Box No 0539.

MAN of honour (graduate, 37) youthful, humorous & chaste, offers permanent happiness to lonely girl (30s?) whose life is incomplete. Must be country-lover & marriage-minded. One small child welcome. Herts. Please Reply to Box No 0465

N. OXON. Enthusiastic, experienced and successful businessman, 58, with varying interests, seeks confident career woman for relaxing companionship. Please Reply to Box No 0577

NON-MACHO E. Anglian slim 6' 46 easy to talk to WLTM an amusing n/s lady who fills a dress beautifully. Please Reply to Box No 0348

NORTH-West based, wealthy, company chairman, young mid 50s, fun loving, good looking and caring seeks attractive, curvaceous, very affectionate intelligent lady. Please reply with photo to Box No 0366.

NORTH West. Attractive bachelor, (36), musical, loves life, has everything but the girl. Photo appreciated. Box 0288.

NOTHING ventured, nothing gained! You - attractive, slim, sensual, 28-40, impulsive, free. Me - 40s, good looking, adventurous, established, seeking long term relationship/ marriage. We meet, we click, you choose a holiday, we go for it. Letter and photo guarantees reply. Reply to Box No 0446.

PRESENTABLE, articulate, slim, fit, amusing, cultured London professional, 40, Jewish, seeks attractive, alluring, captivating, well spoken uncommitted lady 21-35. Photo & phone essential. Please Reply to Box No 0636

PROFESSIONAL man, well heeled and well preserved, 48, hopes to find intelligent, attractive and humorous professional female companion, 30s-40s, who is also seeking what is currently missing from being single again. London. Photo please. Please Reply to Box No 0493.

PROVE me wrong! After extensive investigations, this presentable single W.London Police Officer, 45, believes all slim, attractive, unattached ladies, younger than himself, any race, are accounted for. I have no ties, am honest, warm, sociable personality, GSOH, financial security caters for my various interests, especially yachting. Should I give up looking? Letters with photo answered. Please Reply to Box No 0364

RELOCATED; Oxfordshire. 29 y.o. Professional, Graduate, sporty, fun, attractive. Why do I feel disillusioned? Write with explanation & photo. Box 0428.

ROMANTIC, 40, divorced wants to rekindle his sense of adventure with sophisticated attractive elegant female 28-38. Geographically desirable locations are Central London and SE. Photo essential. Please Reply to Box No. 0482.

SEMI-PROFESSIONAL 30, 5'4", slim, hairstyle of Patrick Stewart, enjoys travelling, looking for female of similar description (except hairstyle!) Please Reply to Box No 0570.

SENSUOUS male, young 40s, slim, 6ft, dark. Interesting personality. Own company and exciting unusual international lifestyle. A lot more description if you write! I'm looking for a super intelligent, capable, confident and gregarious female n/s, 30-40, to enjoy ecstatic love and and intellectually equal relationship. Working hard and sharing laughs, friends, food and wine, music and travelling. If you are fit, affectionate, energetic, have few ties or can juggle your life and enjoy skiing, swimming, discussion, sensuality and romance, please write a long or short letter with phone number (and photo if possible) to Box No 0449.

SEVE Ballesteros look a like. N.W Male, fit 33, likes skiing, keep fit, travel, antiques and live concerts. If you are a lady who turns heads with your charm & personality then please reply. Please Reply to Box No 0367

SOUTH Cumbria. Professional male, n/s tall, fit, mid 40s. Likes the great outdoors, travel, wining and dining. WLTM intelligent Lady 35-45 with similar interests. Reply and photo please to Box No 0496.

SOUTHPORT: Thoughtful gentle solicitor, 43, seeks similar woman for dinners out, country rambles, and friendly chat. Please Reply to Box No 9609

SUCCESSFUL good looking business executive, age 42, is now on his own, has varied interests including dining out and theatre, seeks the companionship of a good looking, sophisticated, feminine lady for one to one relationship. Photo and telephone number appreciated. Please Reply to Box No 0257.

SUCCESSFUL professional gentleman seeks coloured Asian, Chinese lady age 22-32 in London area for a chance of having a wonderful time. Must have GSOH. Photo assures prompt reply. Come on ladies this could be a chance of a lifetime. Reply to Box No 0675.

SURREY businessman, with E. Midlands business, friendly, sincere, sporty, 61, 5'9, loves travelling to France, good food/ wine. Needs companion to share these interests. Box 0522

VERY attractive doctor, 31, 6'3 tall, sporty, caring, humorous, romantic. WLTM slim, very beautiful intelligent lady n/s London/SE. Photo please. Please Reply to Box No 0255.

WARM sensuous fun loving professional woman sought by discerning good looking and very successful 43 yr old East Midlands man. My ideal lady would be gentle, tactile, stunningly attractive and sporty, height 5ft 3 - 5ft 6 and aged 32-42. Im caring, considerate, honest, kind, n/s, romantic, sincere and tender. And would love to meet if you're out there, Please write with photo to box No 0609

WELL travelled, fit, handsome, youthful 60 y.o. man. Gregarious, fun loving, GSOH, many interests seeks affectionate, attractive, solvent, female, any age for possible friendship/ relationship, and to possibly share his beautiful cottage in Cornwall, photo please. Apply to Box No 0622.

WOULD you be interested in a laid back creative photographer? Who is a young 40, considered attractive and fun to be with. A man with loads to offer who has not yet met Miss Wright. Are you 30ish with a friendly relaxed attitude? Slender? Shapely? Sexy? Interesting C.V.s with photo ensures rapid response. NW based. Box 0448.

YORKSHIREMAN seeks White Rose. Young 41, professional, 5'9", typical Virgo, based M62 corridor (Bury/ Halifax), intelligent and thoughtful. Never-married, very fit, enjoys walking, travel, skiing, rugby, small dinner parties, country pubs/ restaurants, wine, France and Scotland. Seeks 30 - something n/s lady to share these activities with, view possible long-term relationship. Box No 0621

YORKSHIRE. Romantic, caring, artistic gentlemen Jewish 61, likes music, travel seeks slim n/s lady in her fifties. Please Reply to Box No 0548.

YOUNG at heart, the wrong side of 50. You may also feel or be the wrong side of what you would want to be. I am selective and will offer loyalty, kindness, caring, a sense of humour, support and excitement and the charisma to be all that you want hope and want me to be. You will need to be free to enjoy yourself without encumberances as I live, when the weather and fancy takes me, in Mayfair, on the Thames and in the South of France. I promise to return any recent photograph you may send me. Telephone number please for an introductory chat. Don't hesitate, reply right away. Box Number 0655.

GAY man. West Mids. 43, tall, slim and fit. Busy professional musician seeks similar or younger to share the civilised things of life. RSVP with photo. Please Reply to Box No 0350

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SELECTIVE SINGLES
A new beginning and a world of possibilities

DIRECTIONS: These statements are designed to measure the way you feel about certain areas. There are no right or wrong answers, so work quickly, marking the appropriate box beside each statement.

(1) = Clearly Agree (2) = Slightly Agree (3) = Neutral (4) = Slightly Disagree (5) Clearly Disagree

1 2 3 4 5
1. ☐☐☐☐☐ Common interests are more important than romantic love.
2. ☐☐☐☐☐ I enjoy the company of the opposite sex more than that of my own.
3. ☐☐☐☐☐ I have always liked to join clubs and organizations.
4. ☐☐☐☐☐ Wearing designer clothes is worth the extra money.
5. ☐☐☐☐☐ Physical contact is an important form of communication.
6. ☐☐☐☐☐ My feelings are easily hurt.
7. ☐☐☐☐☐ I have to know someone for a long time before I can trust them.
8. ☐☐☐☐☐ I clip out coupons for free samples of products.
9. ☐☐☐☐☐ It makes me feel uncomfortable to openly disagree with people.
10. ☐☐☐☐☐ I have pleasant memories of my childhood.
11. ☐☐☐☐☐ The man should pay for everything on a date.
12. ☐☐☐☐☐ Kissing someone in public is in poor taste.
13. ☐☐☐☐☐ It's fun to surprise my friends with small gifts.
14. ☐☐☐☐☐ Worrying too much about money spoils happiness.
15. ☐☐☐☐☐ My mood may change quickly from happy to sad.
16. ☐☐☐☐☐ A strong relationship must include a good sex life.
17. ☐☐☐☐☐ I like to have friends over to my home.
18. ☐☐☐☐☐ I believe in telling people if I think they are making a mistake.

MULTIPLE CHOICE -
Circle the best answer or answers.
19. I prefer socialising and dating members of the opposite sex whose age range is (a) 18-25 (b) 26-35 (c) 36-49 (d) over 50.
20. My annual income this year will be (a) under £15k (b) £15-25k (c) £25-35k (d) £35-50k (e) over £50k.
21. I am currently (a) single (b) divorced (c) widowed (d) separated (e) eligible to meet and date socially
22. Meeting more people and expanding my social life is important because (a) I'm new to the area (b) I don't like the bar scene (c) I can't find the type of people I'd like to date (d) I have little or no time to look because of work (e) I am recently divorced or have ended a primary relationship.
23. What are the three most important characteristics that you look for in members of the opposite sex.
(a)
(b)
(c)
Name:
Address:
Town: Postcode:
Occupation:
Home Phone:
Work Phone:
Age: Ht: Wt:
Sex M ☐ F ☐
Do you have any Physical Handicaps?
Yes ☐ No ☐
If yes explain

Declaration: All the information will be confidential to Selective Singles. Data Protection Reg No. A2419-06-03

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Ever considered looking for Mr or Ms Right in our Saturday Rendezvous section? Over 32% of our readers are single, widowed, divorced or separated. Maybe one of them would like to share their life - and their paper - with you.

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Looking cool and staying safe on the ski slopes

Raichle Flexon Comp boots, £290; Thermoflex inners, £115

Doug Sager selects the best clothes, boots, skis and gadgets

BRITISH skiers once took pride in being the worst-dressed in the Alps. Now, not even Sloanes think it even faintly amusing to turn up on the slopes in wellies and Barbour. Function *is* fashion now.

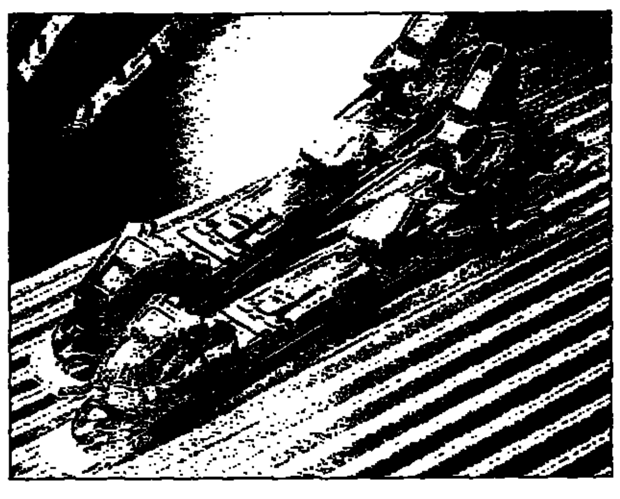
Waterproof/breathable fabrics, hydrophobic underwear and the layering system ensure that, no matter how dire the circumstances, no skier need ever again be wet, cold or constrained by bulky clothing.

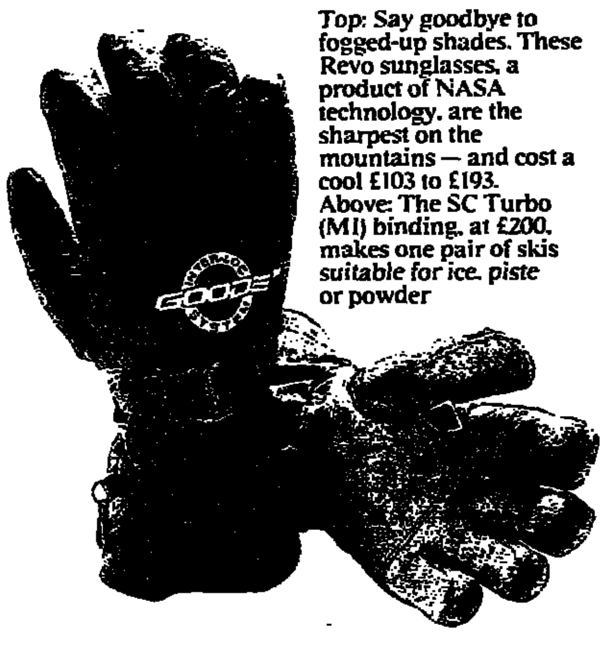
The two historically diametric poles of comfort and performance have reached virtual convergence in boots and skis, which, thanks *to computer-assisted design (CAD) and space*-age materials, put even intermediate skiers *right on the edge. However, the corollary of all* this development is that it's more difficult than ever to know what to buy for the coming season. True, British ski shops have finally achieved a rough parity in price and breadth of choice with the better emporia in the Alps. But, in terms of "ski cred", there are still crevasses of incorrect choice lurking around to trap the unwary buyer.

Although it's fair to say there are no longer any *bad* skis being made, there's an avalanche of stuff on the shelves which will elicit sneers in serious skiing resorts, *such as Val d'Isère* and Verbier.

So, if looking cool is your goal, you can't go wrong with the gear I have selected below for the best-kitted skier in 1996.

Function is the fashion this season, with skiwear such as this Swedish-made Mover Mokaido jacket, £369, and *Mopant, £269. Both in long-lasting Gore-tex and Kevlar*





Top: Say goodbye to fogged-up shades. These Revo sunglasses, a product of NASA technology, are the sharpest on the mountains — and cost a cool £103 to £193.
Above: The SC Turbo (MI) binding, at £200, makes one pair of skis *suitable* for ice, *piste* or powder

The Inter-Loc glove, £40-£80, is the world's first glove-pole system. A clip on the glove locks on to the pole for safety

OUTER LAYER
Mover from Sweden:
Blouson, approx. £419; Shell Pant, approx. £369.

The choice of mountain guides, who would rip through a Willy Bogner suit in a weekend, Mover is bombproof, technical clothing in Gore-tex and Kevlar. Generously cut, for wearing layers underneath, and peak prices. But the classic colours won't pall for the fashion-conscious, and you'll never need to buy another outfit.

☐ *Snow and Rock (01932 569569).*

INSULATION LAYER
Lowe Alpine Aleutian fleece Kiska sweater, £66.

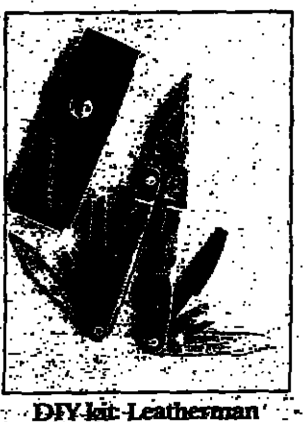
I buy fleece for the snuggly warmth and the colours. Lowe has one of the warmest fleece fabrics and, in berry red and ink, two of the hottest to look at.

☐ *Europa Sport (01539 724740).*

BOTTOM LINE
Duofold thermal underwear, £17-£40.

Miracle fabrics "wick" perspiration away from skin and progressively out through layers to the open air. Duofold's thermals come in light, medium and expedition weights for fine tuning. I find the latter ideal as the only garment needed under a shell.

☐ *Peaco (0161 3665020).*



DIY kit: Leatherman Supertool, £69.95

BOOTS
Raichle Flexon Comp, £290 (with Thermoflex inner boot, £115), and Sidas orthotic footbeds, £30-£40.

No matter how good a skier you are, or what boots you use, an orthotic footbed moulded to your foot will dramatically improve your skiing and ease the aches. The new Sidas vacuum system takes about 20 minutes to fit and costs 40 per cent less in the UK than in the Alps. Raichle boots have the best flex on the market. And this year's Flexon Comp now fits wider feet. The inner boot is also new, but consider instead, or as a second inner, the revolutionary, tongueless Thermoflex liner. With no pressure points and light as a feather, the Thermoflex is *indispensable for anyone with* cold feet or poor circulation.

☐ *Snow and Rock (01932 569569).*

SKIS
K2 MSL 10.0, £380.

I tested this ski last winter, and nothing is easier or more fun to ski on in powder, crust or in the trees. An all-mountain ski, which is quiet underfoot and steady as a *steamroller.*

☐ *Outdoor Leisure (0161 4281178).**

BINDINGS
Marker M1 Turbo SC, £200.

Instead of having three pairs of skis, adjust this binding for ice, piste or powder. This is the second generation of selective control technology, and it works.

☐ *Europa Sport (01539 724740).**

GLOVES and POLES
Goode Inter-Loc System gloves, £40-£80. Poles, £80.

Look, Ma; no straps! The first integrated glove-pole system, a clip on the glove locking on to the pole for better safety and swing angle. A no-questions-asked guarantee on breaking the pencil-thin poles too.

☐ *Snow and Rock (01932 569569).*

EYEWEAR
Revo glasses, £103-£193.
Smith Goggles, £20-£65.

I've tried every brand of sunglasses, and no lens is sharper than Revo. It came out of NASA technology and is *the* coolest shade in the Alps and America. In about a million vertical feet of Canadian helicopter skiing, I've *never* yet had my Smith Monashee goggles fog up.

☐ *Revo Paragon Communications (0171-734 6030). Smith Outdoor Leisure (0161-428 1178).**

OFF-PISTE SURVIVAL
Ortovox

Into the Stratus 32-litre rucksack's £100 specially constructed *compartments* go the F1 avalanche transceiver at *£220. collapsible probe* at £60, and unbreakable plastic shovel at £60, none of which I would take a step off-piste without.

☐ *Ortovox Ardblair (01250 873863).**

GLOBAL POSITIONING
Magellan 2000, £200

Anyone who has *ever* been caught in a white-out off-piste, *or lost in the* back alleys *of* Zermatt or some such place after a night on the town, will realise this is no toy. Satellite arrays pinpoint your position on the Magellan 2000 screen to within 15 metres. It's handy to carry, too, measuring about 10cm by 18cm by 5cm.

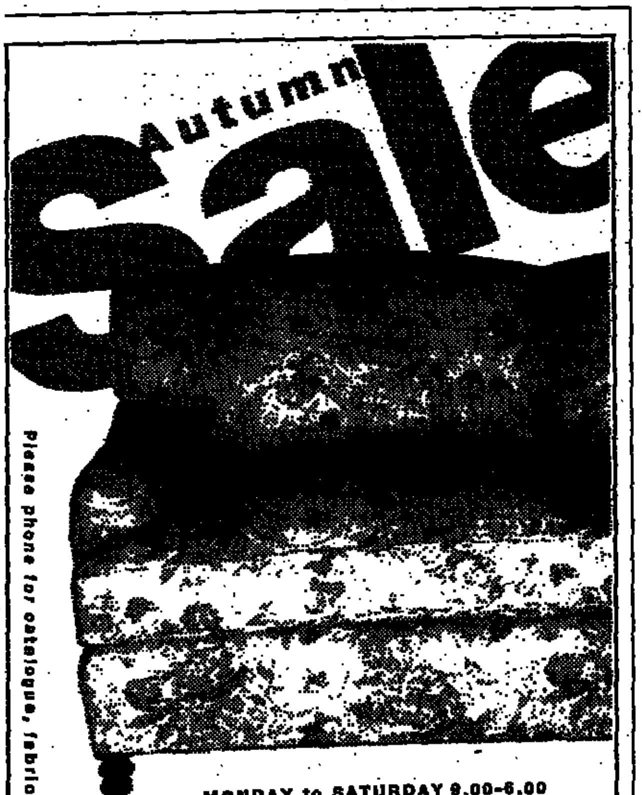
☐ *Next Destinations (01722 410800).**

GADGETS
Leatherman Supertool, £69.

Most skiing gizmos, such as boot carriers and hat clips, are for wimps. The Leatherman multi-purpose tool is the mountain man's Swiss Army knife.

☐ *Whitby and Co (01539 721032).**

**These items also available by mail-order from Snow and Rock. Call 01932 569569 for catalogue.*



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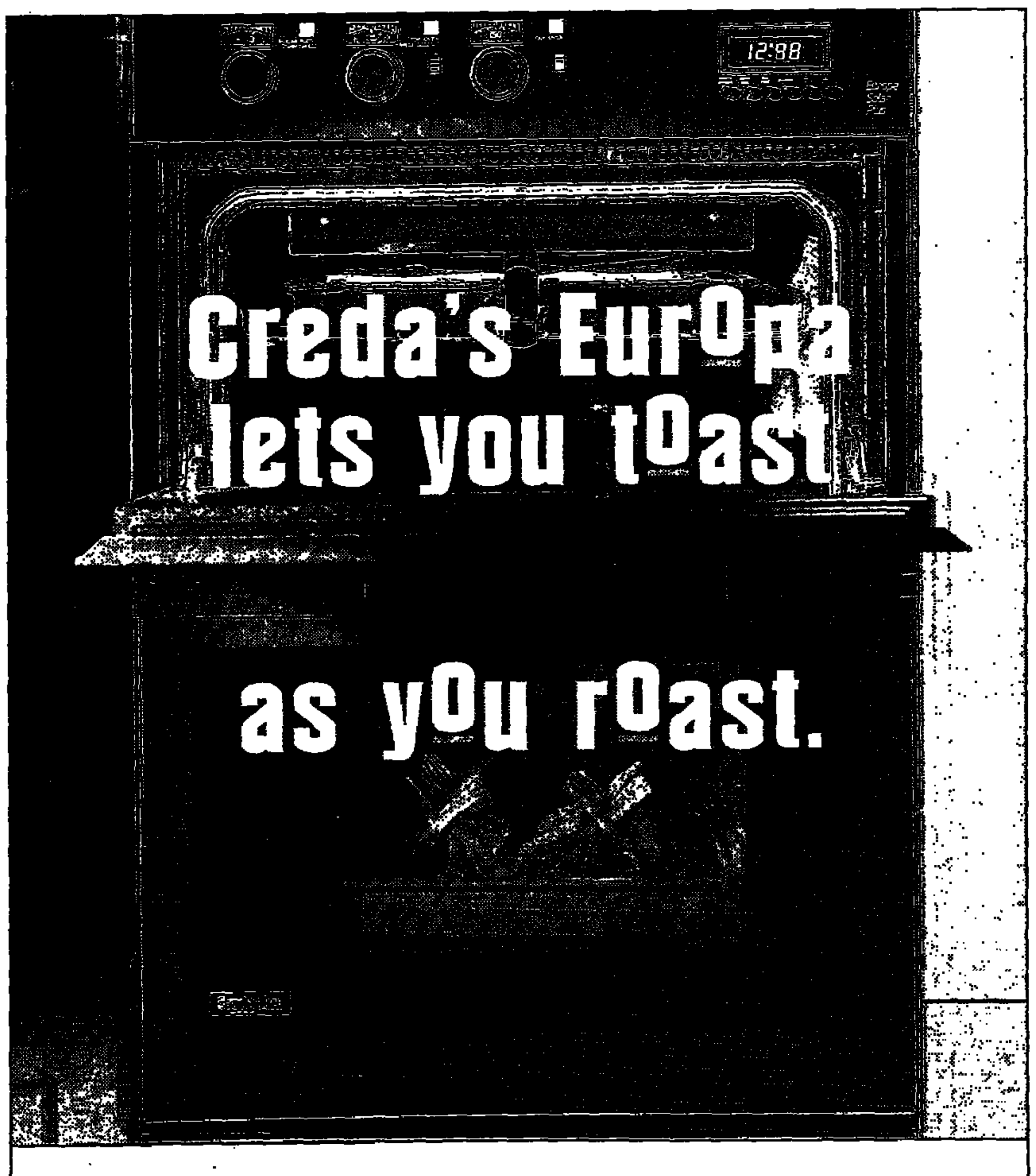

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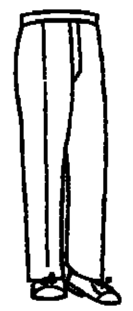

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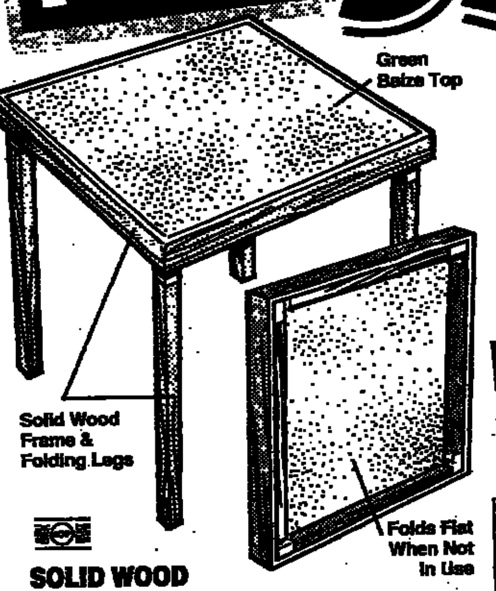

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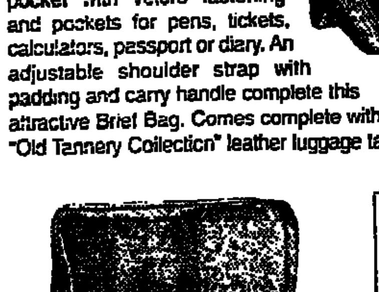

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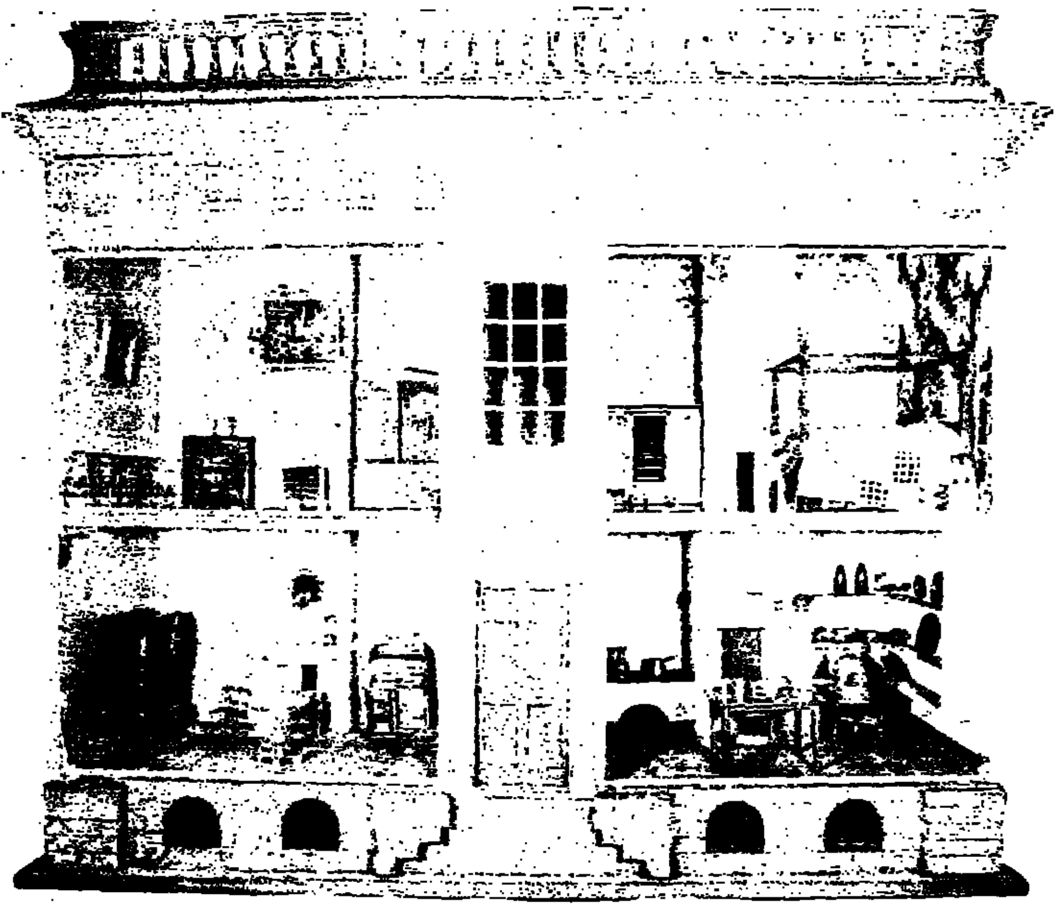
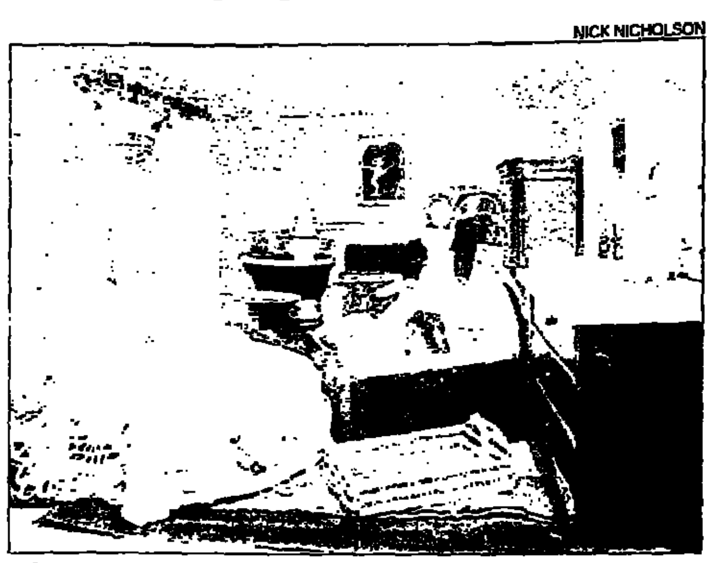
Magnificence in miniature

Without Vivien Greene, little would be known of the antique dolls' houses that were once a status symbol for every grand home

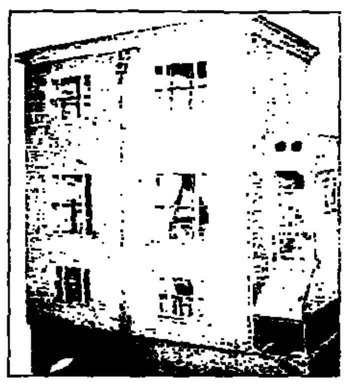


The Great House, made in about 1750, reflects the 18th-century habit of housing a simple four-room dwelling in an extravagant architectural edifice. Left, a brass pendulum clock of the late 19th century

NICK NICHOLSON



The Cedars, Woodbridge, contains a bride's bedroom complete with going-away clothes. The *Bidder House, below*, was for children



"My husband was never interested in dolls' houses," says Graham Greene's 91-year-old widow, Vivien. "In fact he was never interested in domesticity or homemaking, which was unfortunate, as these are my skills."

The art critic John Rothenstein visited them in 1945 and later reported acidly that as Mrs Greene went through the house "attending to the needs of multifarious tiny, fragile objects, her husband looked on with a detached eye". Then he amused himself by "discoursing with a fair measure of candour of his visits to nude shows and other places even further beyond the *range of his wife's approval*".

In the world of antique dolls' *house* collecting, however, the writer's tastes are of no interest. It is Vivien Greene who is the celebrated figure, the world's leading dolls' house expert, whose extraordinary museum, the Rotunda, is tucked away in her garden.

Without Mrs Greene's pioneering work, little would be known *today of the 18th and 19th-century* miniature houses that were once a *status symbol* for every grand establishment. Not initially toys, at least until the mid-19th century, they were usually commissioned as an ornament for the staircase landing, for example, or sometimes even as a replica of the owner's home.

The earliest date from the late *17th century and are sometimes* furnished with exquisite miniature silver dinner services, turned chairs and minute family portraits. They were intended as a demonstration of taste. It was only in the 1840s that these "baby" houses, as early examples are called, began to change, becoming simpler structures intended for childish hands.

Even so, they were still wonderfully furnished, with Chippendale-*style chairs, petit point carpets*, porcelain replacing the silver and charming clocks made at the Wolverhampton toy factory of Evans & Cartwright.

"The extraordinary thing," Mrs Greene says, " is that these houses went so far out of fashion they were dumped in attics and stables and, until the mid-1940s, lay forgotten.

"Before I became interested, people dumped them on the bonfire. There was no research, nothing *known* about them."

She started collecting during the *Second World War* while camped with her children at Trinity College, Oxford, to avoid the London blitz. Graham was mostly in London working for the intelligence service, his novels and films bringing increasing fame and separation from his wife.

When their house in London was bombed, she was devastated. "We *lost everything," she says.* "I just burst into tears. Then I started to go *auction-hunting for furniture* with my friend, the historian A.J.P. Taylor. One day I visited Burford and was captivated by a dolls' house in a shop. I thought I'd love to have a house again and furnish it, so I bought it for less than a fiver and carried it back with me on the bus.

"People heard of my interest and told me of relatives who had dolls' *houses in their attics. I wrote* asking if I could visit and travelled all over the country, and eventually the world, to study them. I'm interested only in houses between 1700 and 1900 because of the craftsmanship and because, when

> Whatever you do, if you find one with furniture in it, don't spruce the thing up

you find them intact, they record, in absolute domestic detail, how homes were run."

To begin with, she encountered some mockery, not least from Greene's literary friends. But the poet W.H. Auden was sweet, and John Sparrow, the legendary warden of All Souls, adored her miniaturist world. As indeed did Sir Albert Richardson, a former president of the Royal Academy, whose own dolls' house now rests in the Rotunda.

"Nobody could imagine taking *notice of dolls' houses,*" *she says.* "You might as well have said: 'Do you collect bicyle clips?' I don't doubt there are still some lying forgotten in houses and perhaps, if you hunt hard, in junk shops. At Christie's now, they may fetch £20,000 or much more."

The collector often begins, as she did, acquiring something of unknown value. Sooner or later, the collector discovers there are *no* reference books, so writes one. *Eventually, dealers and museum* curators take an interest and suddenly there is a serious market.

This is exactly what happened to Vivien Greene with the publication of her first book, *English Dolls' Houses of the 18th and 19th Centuries*, in 1955 (Batsford, now out of print), her work encouraging others to study, conserve and record what might otherwise have been discarded.

She and Graham separated in 1947. "He sent me a telegram, saying how much he had enjoyed reading my book," she says. "He was very good about my collecting. He gave me money for the museum in the 1960s, and now people come from Japan, America and Germany just to see me and to discuss dolls' houses."

In the Rotunda is the William *and Mary, a late 17th-century* house with four rooms, each with a corner fireplace. "These fireplaces," she explains, "are common in the late 17th century. But the best guide to dating a baby house is the thickness of the walls and evidence of painstaking carpentry, carefully made roof ridges and separately carved tiles. The earliest houses were never more than four rooms, the whole structure entirely solid, often of oak.

"An early 18th-century house will have a square opening painted black for a fireplace, where a basket *grate should stand.*" *In the 1850s*, grates and chimney-pieces were made *in a fragile kind of trellis* work imported from Diessen. "Whatever you do," Mrs Greene says, "if you find one with furniture in it, don't move it. Don't spruce the thing up."

Many of Mrs Greene's rescued houses have had furniture added. But some have come intact, including the Bidder House, which Mrs Greene has kept exactly as it was *arranged and played with a hundred years ago.*

And then there is the lodging baby house for cats in need of sea air. Most of the furniture came with this house, which was formerly owned by her bargain-hunting companion, A.J.P. Taylor.

KATHARINE HADLEY

● The Vivien Greene Dolls' House Collection *is published by Cassell on November 6, price £30.*

● *The Rotunda Museum is open on the first Sunday in every month from May until the end of September. Groups of 12 or more may visit on other days in that period by written appointment only. For details, please write to the Rotunda Museum, 44 Iffley Turn, Oxford.*

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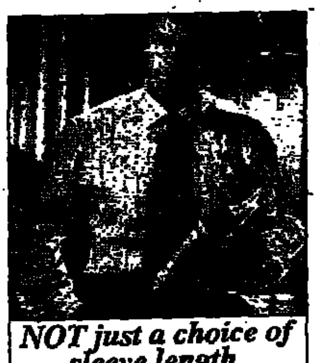

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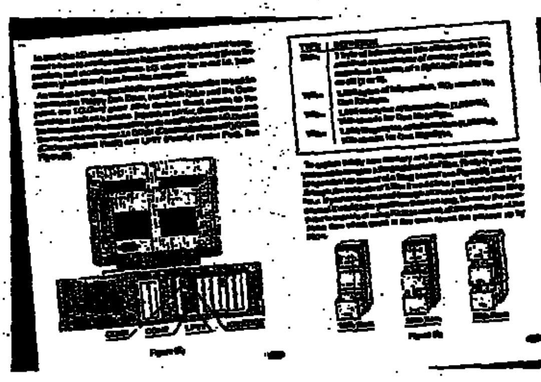

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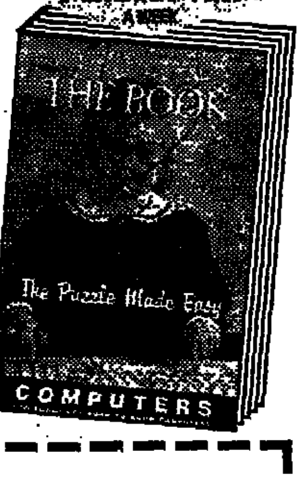

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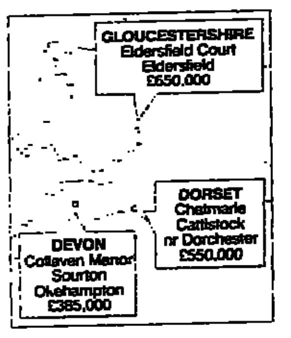
Gloucestershire: Eldersfield Court, Eldersfield. Recently refurbished Grade II listed Queen Anne manor house, in 12 acres of landscaped gardens and woodland with six paddocks. Six bedrooms, dressing room, three bathrooms, playroom/studio, three reception rooms, study, kitchen, wine cellars and sauna. The cobbled stable yard has four boxes. About £650,000 (Knight, Frank & Rutley, 01285 659771).



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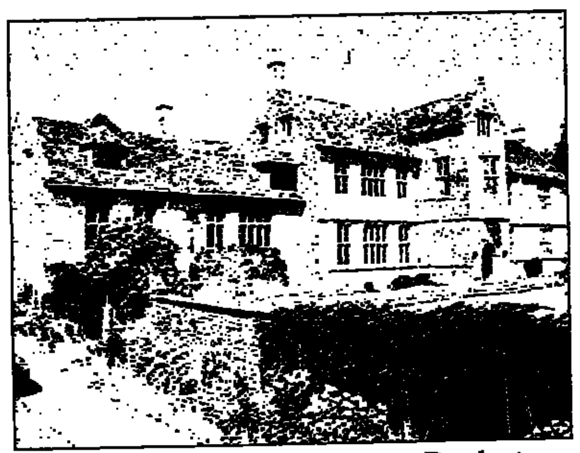
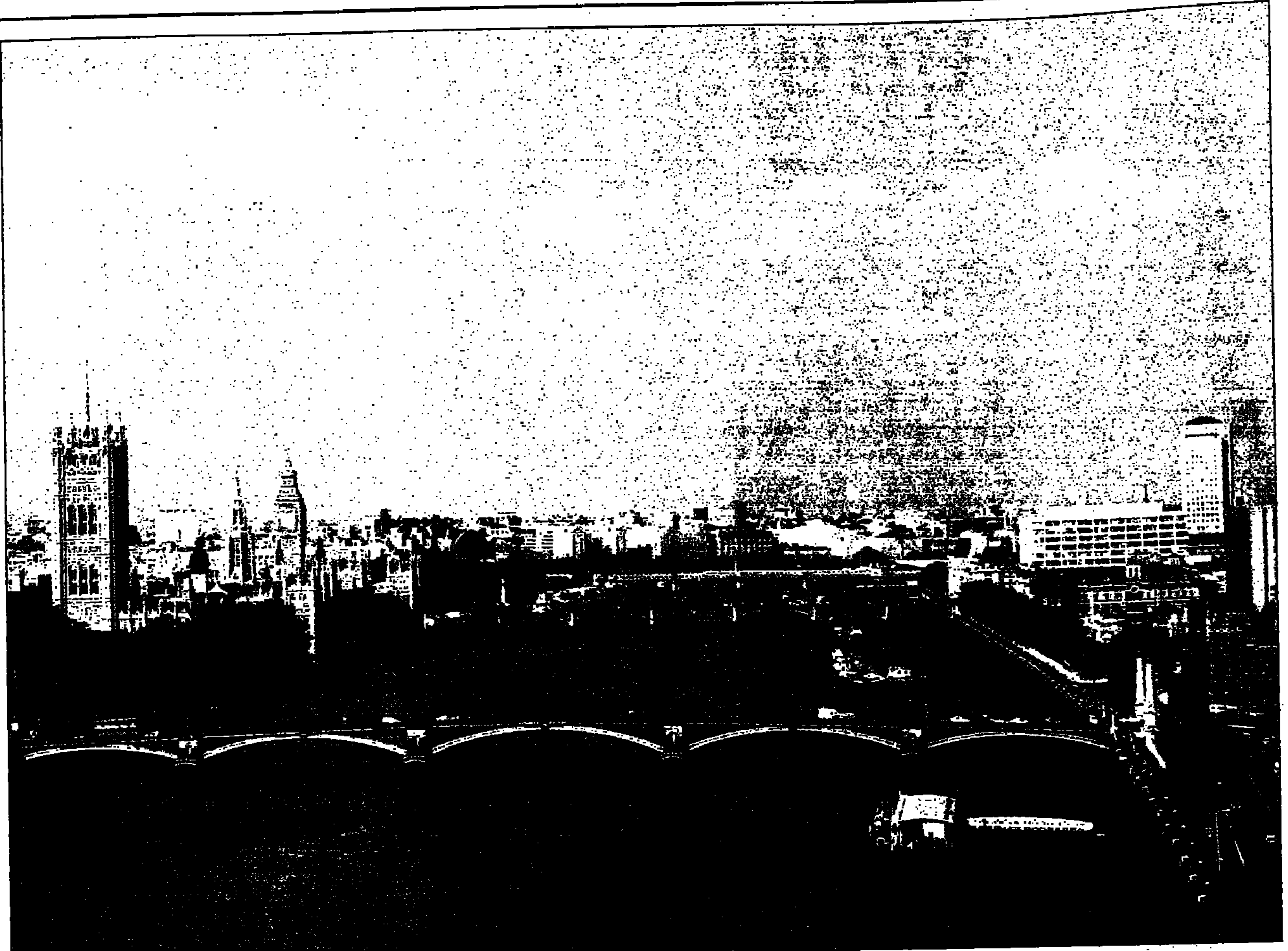
Devon: Collaven Manor, Sourton, Okehampton. Restored Grade II listed house set in three acres of gardens with paddocks. Nine bedrooms (all with *en-suite* baths), three reception rooms, study/office, breakfast room, kitchen, ground floor bedroom suite, two cloakrooms. Former coach-house/garage. About £385,000 (GA Town & Country, 01392 427070).



Dorset: Chatmarle, Cattistock, near Dorchester. Grade I listed manor house, formerly part of police training centre, in 25 acres. Reception hall, four reception rooms and inner hall on ground floor. The first and second floors have been converted for institutional use, with 22 bedrooms and various bathrooms. Separate two-bedroom cottage. About £550,000 (Michael de Pelet, 01935 812236).

CHERYL TAYLOR



The view of Lambeth, Westminster and Hungerford Bridges from apartment 29 of Peninsula Heights: a snip at £3.25 million for five bedrooms

Developing the giddy heights

Unoccupied office blocks in central London are being converted into apartments. But will anyone pay £3.25 million for some rooms with a view?

On the surface, the idea of living in an old office block seems rather unattractive. Offices are usually in parts of town that close after working hours and are dead at weekends. But because of the recession many blocks have become dormant, and these temples to industry are being converted into grand flats that are on the market for as much as £3.25 million.

That is the price of the most expensive flat in the newly converted Peninsula Heights, *née* Alembic House, a 13-storey block in Vauxhall, south London. It was built in 1962 as an "international centre" and a partial home for the United Nations in London. The organisation never moved in, and most of the building has remained unoccupied.

The upper floors have always been residential, housing, among others, the actor Richard Harris, the president of the Formula One Constructors' Association, Bernie Eccleston, and, for the past few years, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare. His penthouse on the top floor is a sumptuous affair, as anybody who has read a recent issue of *House and Garden* will know.

Office conversions are becoming increasingly fashionable in London. On the south bank opposite the City, the Manhattan Loft Corporation is currently converting a Victorian warehouse and a 1950s office block near Bankside power station (which is being redeveloped by the Tate Gallery) and the Globe Theatre.

Leaseholds of 999 years on the "lofts" are for sale between £80,000 and £650,000, and are aimed at a trendier occupant. A bicycle hangs from the ceiling in the show loft, indicative of the lifestyle the company is targeting.

Bee Bee Developments recently bought 45 commercial buildings in Clerkenwell, north of the City, for £7.5 million, most of which will be transformed into flats.

Near the Barbican, in Bridgewater Square, Jardine Estates is converting 22,500 sq ft of office space into 19 mainly one-bedroom flats. In Islington, north London, next to Sadler's Wells, Berkeley Homes and the Manhattan Loft Corporation are transforming the former head offices of Thames Water into 124 flats, which will range from £80,000 to £350,000 for 125-year leases.

Near Tower Bridge, Barratt has converted a City of London office block into 41 flats with one and two bedrooms, costing between £80,000 and £130,000, which have all been sold.

But what is different about Peninsula Heights, work on which started in November 1993 by Regalian and The Sincere Group of Hong Kong, is the view. Sitting on the balconies of any of the flats is akin to hovering in a helicopter above the Thames, peering down at the splendour of the Palace of Westminster one way, and gazing at the decaying Battersea power station the other.

Estate agent-speak, — "commanding", "finest", "aspect", "exceptional" and "arresting" — is inadequate for describing the view. Such is its unusual nature that the sight of Lambeth, Westminster and Hungerford Bridges stacked up in a neat row is reminiscent of Paris.

And this is why the flats are so expensive. For £3.25 million, you can buy a 125-year lease on the entire 12th floor, which contains five bedrooms, four bathrooms, five balconies, and a reception area that measures nearly 42ft by 18ft. *Pied-à-terre* it is not. At £800 per square foot, it is likely to be London's most expensive flat south of the river.

The other 35 apartments are not so steep. Fifteen cost less than £500,000, and ten between £500,000 and £750,000. The cheapest is a one-bedroom flat for a nugatory £235,000, although the only view is of urban sprawl and railway track. Excluding the four most expensive apartments, this means that the price per square foot is around £375 — nearly £100 less than Central London developments.

This raises the issue of who would live in Peninsula Heights. Five flats have been reserved, chiefly by foreign buyers. Advertising material yodels the benefits of the West End with pictures of the distant Harrods and Albert Hall. "Knightsbridge, Sloane Street and Bond Street are also minutes away, with their world-famous shops and international restaurants," the brochure proclaims, proving that it must have been written by a pigeon.

Such promotion can only be meant for non-Londoners who do not realise that it can take an hour to travel a single congested street in the capital. Those who can afford to live in Peninsula Heights could easily afford to buy within walking distance of the abovementioned facilities, so the residents will have to take their views seriously.

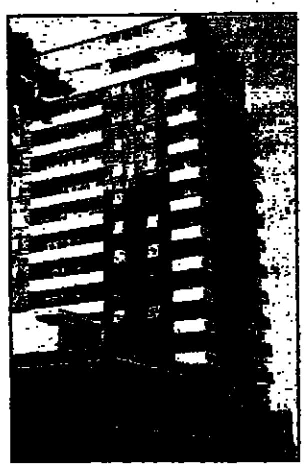
In some ways, Peninsula Heights feels more like a hotel. The lobby is staffed by a liveried receptionist and doorman, and sofas and a coffee table allow visitors to soak up the view of the Thames before being ushered upstairs, no doubt monitored by the closed-circuit television cameras.

The building also houses a gymnasium, and there is even a private sun room, where the latest tanning equipment will brown those parts the sun cannot reach on the balconies. All that is missing is room service, but the inhabitants can take advantage of the Pizza Hut opposite.

GUY WALTERS

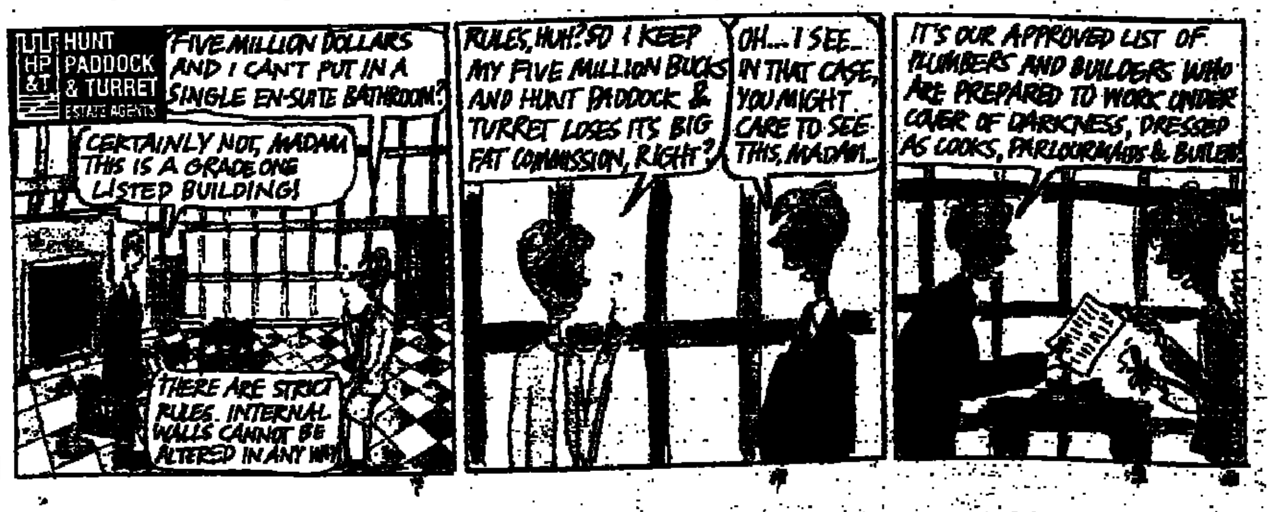
● *For further information on Peninsula Heights, contact the Marketing Suite, Peninsula Heights, 93 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TY (0171-793 1313; fax 0171-793 1414).*

This three-bedroom apartment costs £785,000 — without furnishings



Peninsula Heights: hotel-like

> ❛ The cheapest is a one-bedroom flat for a nugatory £235,000, although the only view is of urban sprawl and railway track ❜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هكذا من الأصل

They were built after the Second World War as temporary homes; now some are being listed as part of our social heritage

Absolutely prefab homes to live in

Home may be a *humble*, two-bedroom prefab, but to Lawrence and Pat Attenborrow it's a palace, which is at last getting the recognition it deserves. "*It has been* listed as a building of historical significance," Mr Attenborrow says.

"The prefabs here were built in 1945 and were intended to last only ten years. But this is their 50th anniversary year, and ours is in much *the same condition as when we* moved in 28 years ago." Mrs Attenborrow adds: "It's cosy and we wouldn't want to move elsewhere."

Their home is one of a group of 17 prefabricated bungalows listed *by Birmingham* City Council and being considered for national listing by English Heritage. Andrew Saint, an historian, says: "Nobody could say prefabs were beautiful or *that they were the* most important architectural statement of the era, but this is a small concentration of typical prefabs *in good condition, and you get* a real sense of period and social history of the time."

> ❛ It's grand. I would be prepared to live in it the rest of my life ❜

Prefabs were originally built as temporary "homes for heroes" to ease the housing shortage after the Second World War. The Government's "Temporary Housing Programme" called for 500,000 homes, each to have two bedrooms, a bathroom, separate lavatory, kitchen with a fridge (because there was no pantry) and a living room.

This sounds basic by today's standards, but 50 years ago a prefab provided a vast improvement in living standards for couples who *had* been waiting for years on a council housing list, living in rented rooms or squashed in with in-laws. A Mrs Parker, interviewed in January 1946, said: "It's grand. I would be prepared to live in it for the rest of my life."

Because of a shortage of traditional building materials, the Ministry of Works allowed prefabs to be built from anything available. At least eight different designs were accepted, with names such as Arcon, Phoenix, Tarran, Uniseco and Universal. Some were built entirely of aluminium, but most *used a form of* corrugated asbestos-cement sheeting bolted to a steel and timber frame. Former aircraft factories turned to making walls and partitions, and obsolete joinery *factories* were re-opened for other parts. Each prefab was made up of about 2,000 components, which were assembled on site.

One of the designers for the Uniseco prefab, Dr Harold Rose, says: "*The* prefabricated panels were a sandwich with a wood-wool filling between sheets of corrugated asbestos-cement. *The houses took eight un*skilled men eight days to assemble. It sounds crude, but the construction industry learnt a lot about innovation and planning."

Each *prefab should* have cost about £500, but Dr Rose says the the average was £1,300. Some historians have questioned whether the exercise was worthwhile, but Dr Rose says: "There was no alternative. There was no time to set up brick factories. I often ask myself why we don't make similar buildings today for the homeless."

By the time the temporary homes programme ended in 1951, 156,000 *prefabs had been built, 4,500 of* them in Birmingham. Rents were 14 shillings (70p) a week and electricity cost eight old pence (less than *4p*). Hot-air shafts radiated heat from the open coke fire to other *parts of the house*. There was a big problem, however: the homes were cold in winter, baking hot in summer, and condensation turned clothes green with mildew.

Most prefabs were demolished in the 1960s and 1970s. Those in the Moseley district of Birmingham survived because of a campaign by residents. They liked living in them and were undaunted by the health scares about asbestos. The homes were not thought to be *hazardous* but as a precaution, combined with a scheme to make them warmer, the council covered all interior walls with insulated boarding. *Engineers say there is no danger* from the exterior walls either.

These are the last council-owned prefabs in Birmingham. There is only one privately owned home among them, bought by Olive *Webb for £12,600 in 1989. "It wasn't* easy to get it," she says. "I wrote to Mrs Thatcher to get mine under the right-to-buy scheme. I'm getting central heating put in this year."

Peter Cariss, an estate agent, says Mrs Webb's home is probably worth about £25,000, but getting a mortgage on it would be difficult. "Building societies are not prepared to lend, because of the prefab's non-traditional construction and it would be deemed not to have a sufficient lifespan for the term of a mortgage. Yet it offers *good accommodation, and a similar* sized bungalow in the area would cost up to £90,000."

The listing of the Moseley prefabs has resurrected some of the interest which greeted their arrival *in 1945. People stop residents to talk* about them. Barry Walker has shown American tourists round the home he has lived in for 18 years, and it's a rare day without someone *stopping to take a photograph.*

Not everyone is thrilled to be in the limelight, however. Mrs Moore, who came to the area in 1950 and has lived in the prefabs the longest, can't understand what all the fuss is about. "If I had *invented a cure for cancer it would* be worth talking about," she said, "but I don't think living here for 45 years is any achievement. Where did you say you were from?"

"*The Times.*"

"Fancy that," she said.

JOHN McLEOD

BBC HULTON PICTURE LIBRARY

ASHLEY COOMBES

A workman is pictured, above, *putting the finishing touches* to one of the first prefab homes in Poplar, east *London, in the* 1940s. Today, *Lawrence* and Pat Attenborrow, left, say that they would not want to leave their *prefab in* Birmingham

Ice lollies and a warm feeling

THE first home I can remember was a prefab. *Strangely*, it is a mouth-watering memory: ask any postwar child who lived in one of *these asbestos bungalows for their* strongest recollection and the chances *are they will talk* about ice lollies.

Because it was an American design, *the neat, fitted kitchen of* our prefab included a fridge, long before such things were taken for granted. In 1951 only 6.1 per cent of all households in Britain had a fridge.

Ours came complete with rounded ice-lolly *moulds*. At a time when sweets were *still* rationed they were a significant treat for special occasions or a reward for good be*haviour. Visiting* children who were not privileged to live in a prefab were always impressed. They were a delicious way to consume *National* Health Service orange juice or any other flavouring: milk lollies were *good if nothing else was available.*

Alan Copps plays in the snow as a child

My family was rehoused in a prefab in 1948 shortly after I was born because my parents' original home, a flat in Teddington, southwest *London, had been demolished* by a doodlebug as the war entered its final year. Fortunately, my father was off serving with the Royal Engineers and my mother *and elder sister*, then aged three months, had gone out for the day. The elderly lady who lived downstairs and had waved goodbye to them was killed in the blast. Later we children were often reminded that the blue-and-white plate on *which cakes were sometimes* served was the only one of my parents' wedding gifts to be retrieved intact from the rubble.

Perhaps such early memories all *revolve around food. Our prefab* had another distinction in that field. The land on which it was built near the rugby ground in Twickenham was once part of the market *gardens from which William* Whiteley supplied his Bayswater store. Our little garden boasted a peach tree *and there were many* fine apples in neighbouring plots.

It was a sociable place to live. Because land was at a premium the prefabs were built in rows of three *facing each other at right angles* to the main road (which is now the start of the M3). So if, *like us*, you lived in the middle you soon got to know everyone else in the row and, because priority was given to families with young children, rap*idly accumulated* friends of your own age. The path between the two rows provided an extra-safe play area beyond the confines of *the ugly wire garden* fence and the perfect place to learn to ride a tricycle.

The prefabs were built very close *to*gether. One of my clearest early memories is of my mother stopping her housework to lean out of the window to dis*cuss with a neighbour leaning out* of her window the death of King George VI, which had just been announced on the radio. The windows were close enough for the *conversation to be carried on in* respectfully hushed tones.

I don't recall the prefab being particularly hot or cold, although I can remember my mother worrying that a damp patch in the bedroom might aggravate the *bronchitis I suffered as a child.* Perhaps it was due to the poor ventilation for which prefabs later became notorious.

We moved about a mile down the *road when I was just about to start* school. My parents were delighted to have a brand new, three-bedroom, brick-built house. But it was some years before we had a *fridge again*. I used to dream about ice lollies.

ALAN COPPS

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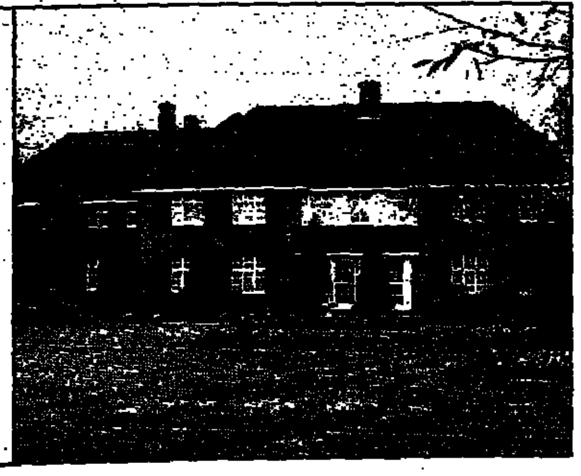

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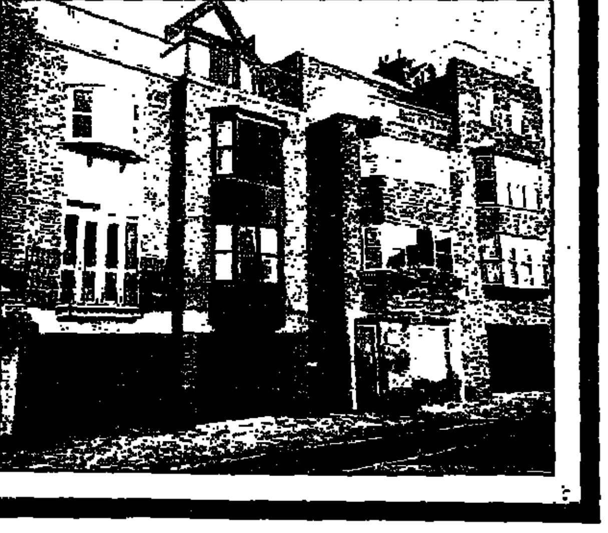

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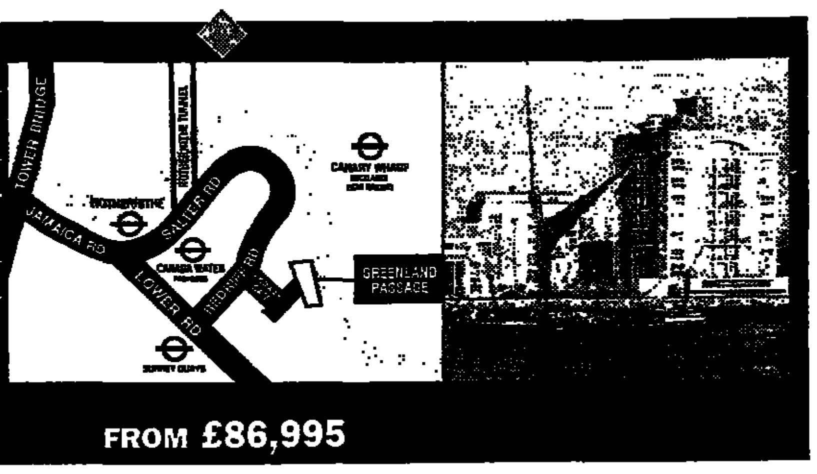

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£750,000 ono
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(thereafter Rachel)
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£350,000
PRIVATE SALE
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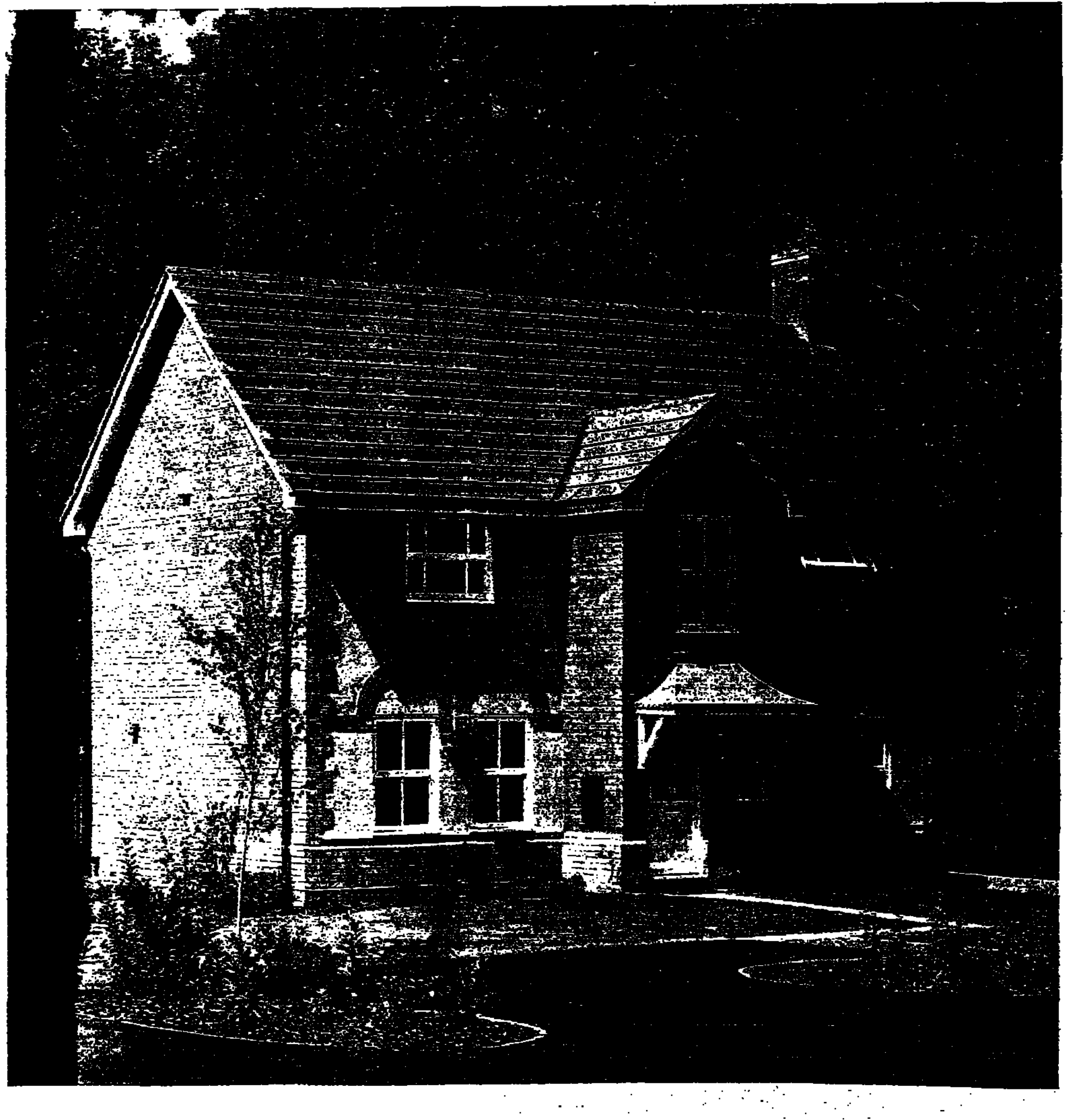

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01227 453 430 Eves-W.E.

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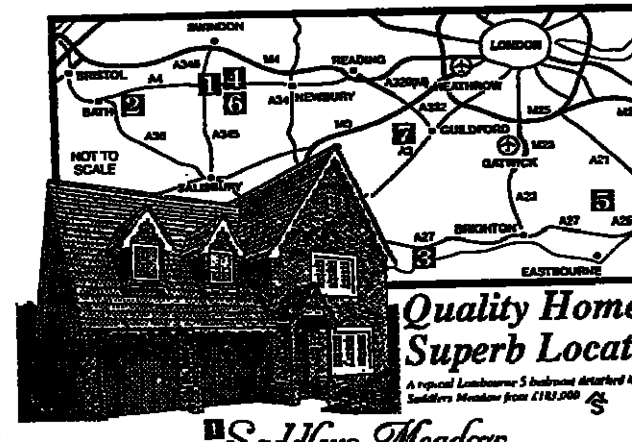

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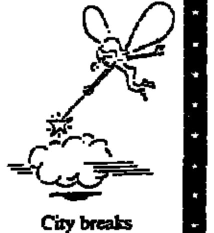

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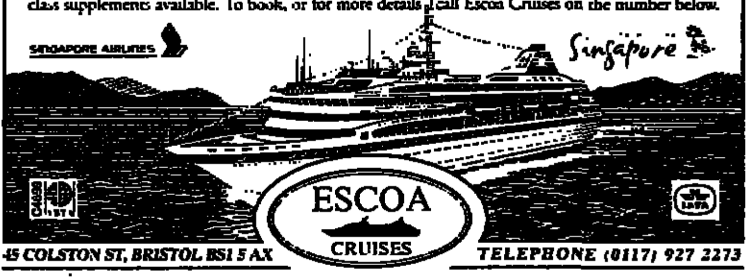

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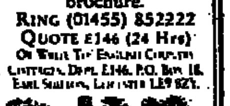

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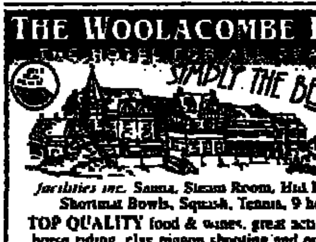

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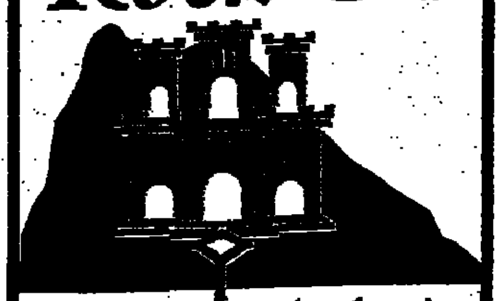

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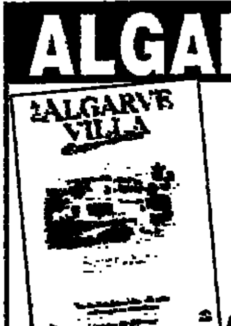

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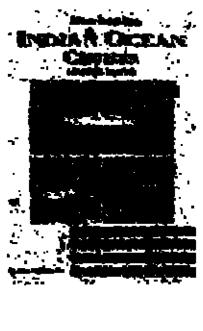

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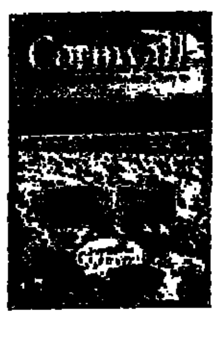

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من الأصل

GAMES

by Raymond Keene

As I mentioned last week, the two contestants in the World Championship in New York, Kasparov and Anand, were circling each other probing for minute weaknesses in the opposing defences.

As I predicted, though, an explosion of energy was about to occur. Anand won game nine, and Kasparov struck back brilliantly to take game ten.

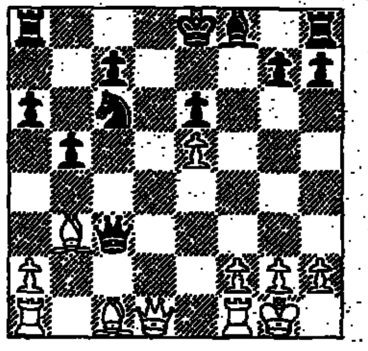
White: Kasparov; Black: Anand
Intel World Championship
Game 10
Ruy Lopez

1	e4	e5	2	Nf3	Nc6
3	Bb5	a6	4	Ba4	Nf6
5	0-0	Nxe4	6	d4	b5
7	Bb3	d5	8	dxe5	Be6
9	Nbd2	Nc5	10	c3	d4
11	Ng5	dxc3	12	Nxe6	fxe6
13	bxc3	Qd3			

Anand here repeated his successful opening from game six. I doubt that this was wise, given Kasparov's reputation as a fiend of openings preparation.

The champion now duly surprised Anand with 14 Bc2 Qxc3 15 Nb3. A rook sacrifice. Anand was so surprised that he now consumed no less than 45 minutes of the two hours thinking time allotted for the first 40 moves.

15 ... Nxb3 16 Bxb3



This is the key position. The overriding question is, can Black capture White's rook. After the game, Kasparov showed these brilliant variations:

(a) 16 ... Qxa1 17 Qh5+ Kd7 18 Bxe6+ Kxe6 19 Qg4+ Kf7 20 Qf3+ Ke6 21 Qxc6+ Bd6 22 exd6 Qe5 23 Bd2. In this position Black's king is so exposed that Re1 is a threat he cannot successfully parry. For example, 23 ... Qxd6 24 Re1+ Kf7 25 Qf3+ Qf6 26 Qb3+ Kf8 27 Bb4+; or 25 ... Kg6 26 Qg4+ Kf7 27 Bc3 and Black is helpless.

(b) 16 ... Qxa1 17 Qh5+ g6 18 Qf3 Nd8. Most players would now content themselves with 19 Qxa8, but Kasparov preferred in his analysis the more precise 19 Qf6 Rg8 20 Bg5 Qd4 21 Rd1, where White wins. Alternatively if Black tries to defend with 18 ... 0-0-0, then 19 Qxc6 Qxe5 20 Qxa6+ Kd7 (if 20 ... Kb8 21 Be3) 21 Bb2 Qxb2 22 Qxe6 mate.

(c) 16 ... Qxa1 17 Qh5+ Kd8 18 Bg5+ and the discovered attack from White's king's rook snares the black queen.

16	...	Nd4	17	Qg4	Qxa1
18	Bxe6	Rd8	19	Bg5	Qc3
20	Bxg7	Qd3	21	Bxh8.	

Kasparov had been blitzing out his moves. Up to here he had still only used six minutes, while Anand was becoming seriously short of time. If here 21 ... Ne2+, then 22 Kh1 Ng3+ 23 hxg3 Qxf1+ 24 Kh2 Rd1 25 Qh5+ Kd8 26 Bf6+ Be7 27 Bxe7+ Kxe7 28 Qf7+ Kd8 29 Qf8 mate.

21	...	Qg6	22	Bf6	Be7
23	Bxe7	Qxg4	24	Bxg4	Kxe7
25	Rc1				

A clear cut move which leaves White with a winning endgame. The key must be to stop Black's queenside pawns creating any kind of dangerous counterplay.

25	...	c6	26	f4	a5
27	Kf2	a4	28	Ke3	b4
29	Bd1	a3	30	g4	Rd5
31	Rc4	c5	32	Ke4	Rd8
33	Rxc5	Ne6	34	Rd5	Rc8
35	f5	Rc4+	36	Ke3	Nc5
37	g5	Rc1	38	Rd6	

Black resigns.

After 38 ... b3, 39 f6+ Kf8 40 Bh5 Nb7 41 Ra6 Nd8 42 Ra8 Rd1 43 e6 forcing mate in four moves.

After this loss, Anand's morale visibly sank. He went on to lose games 11 and 13 in virtually record times, after which his overall situation had become critical.

By Raymond Keene

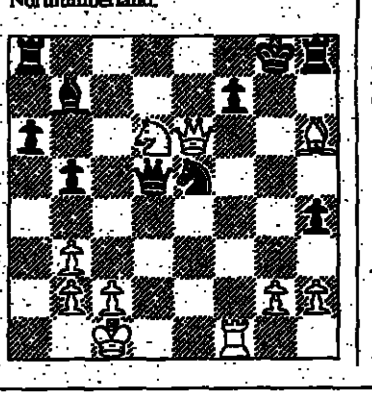
This position is a variation from the game Short - Kasparov, Times World Championship, game 8, 1993.

If Short had been content to make a draw in this game (which he was not) he could have done so here with a beautiful queen sacrifice. Can you see how?

The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday will win a *British Chess Magazine* publication. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's competition: 1 Rh7! (forcing a perpetual check draw after 1 ... Rxh7 2 Qxh7+ etc.)

Last week's winners: C D Proffitt, Oldham, Lancs; M P Doherty, Sale, Cheshire; R M Hill, Morpeth, Northumberland.



PUNCHLINE

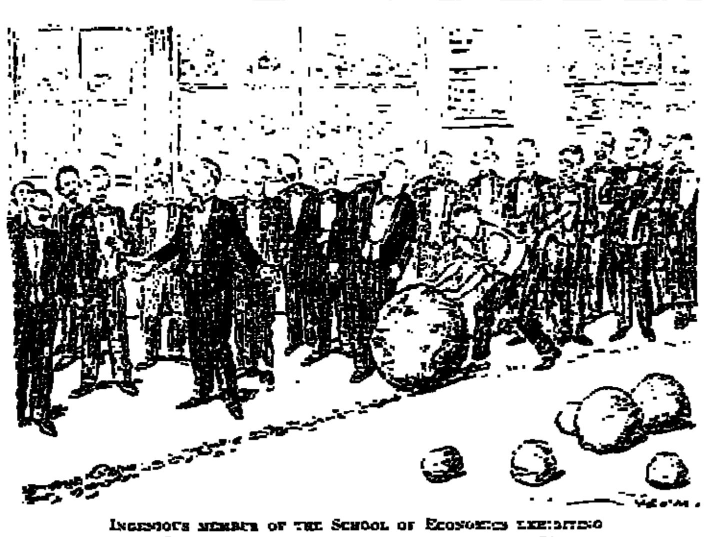
READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon, right. The cartoon, from the Punch library, includes the contemporary caption.

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

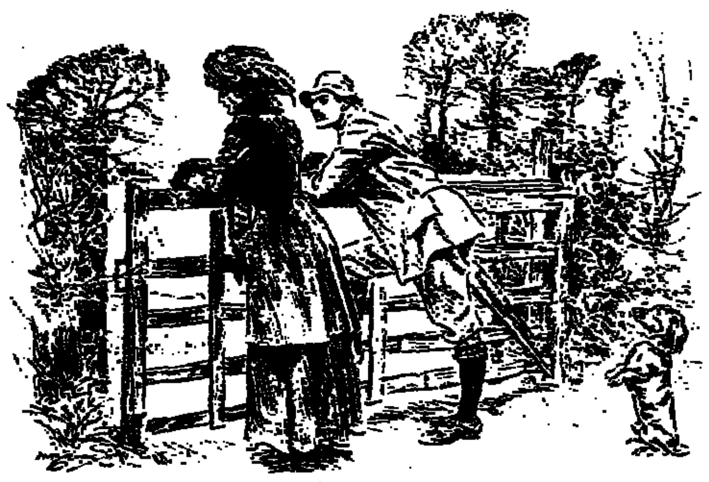
Caption suggestions, on a postcard please, should be addressed to: Cartoon caption 77, Weekend Games Page, *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final.

The closing date for entries is Wednesday, October 11.



INGENIOUS MEMBERS OF THE SCHOOL OF ECONOMICS EXHIBITING A ROLLING STONE WITH MOSS-GATHERING PROPERTIES.



"Can I open my eyes? I can't wait to see our new Datsun!"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by Mr W.J. Morris of Talybont-on-Usk, Brecon

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

AZOTURIA
a. Persian astrology
b. Nitrogenous urine
c. Frankincense

EXCITON
a. An ancient Greek overcoat
b. An excited electron
c. A harpist's plectrum

ADAM'S NEEDLE
a. The little finger
b. A female
c. The yucca

BINGY
a. The belly
b. In party mood
c. A ship's doctor

Answers on page 6

COMPUTER GAMES

THE CAMPEST game of the year is **Worms**, and you can receive your own 3½ in playable demo disc for the cost of a stamp. It will be the best 19p you'll ever spend.

In **Worms**, to be released by Ocean and Team 17 next month, up to four teams of four worms do battle. They fire bazookas, missiles, cluster bombs and more in an entertaining fight to the death.

The action of this terrific platform game is but half the fun; the delightful sound makes up the rest. Worms have a lot to say, and sound as though they've been hitting the helium bottle. "Watch this," they cry as they lob grenades at one another. "Come on then," they demand should you take too long. If you hit one of your own team, heaven forfend, they are also quick off the mark with reprimands such as "Oi, nutter!" or "Traitor!".

This is a crisp game, a funny shoot-'em-up which certainly makes for a superb two-player game. It's engaging, addictive, yet sublimely simple. If there's any justice in the world Worms will be a Christmas bestseller.

To discover for yourself the beauty of this little beast send a stamped, self-addressed envelope

to: Times/Worms Demo Offer, Marketing Department, Ocean Software, 2 Castle Street, Castlefield, Manchester M3 4LZ.

Terry Pratchett's **Discworld** is "Tolkien after a humour transplant" — so says Cyberspace Seventeen entrant Rosy Rabson, from Woodbridge, Suffolk. "*Discworld* is a pizza-shaped planet which hurtles through space on the back of a giant turtle. The game is loosely based on Pratchett's *Discworld* books, but before I had even loaded it I was entranced by the manual and its coat of arms, with Latin mottoes translating as 'Now you see it, now you don't'.

"My task as the failed wizard Rincewind is to save the capital city, Ankh-Morpork, from a dragon. I haven't got very far yet because I keep conversing with my favourite characters, brought to life by the voices of Eric Idle, Tony Robinson, Jon Pertwee and others."

Another entrant, Alec Gallagher from Colindale, northwest London, checked out Virgin's **7th Guest**. "It's set in a gloomy mansion à la Norman Bates," he writes. "You must discover, via a series of logic puzzles, the fate of mansion owner Henry Stauf's six guests and the mysterious seventh guest."

Verbal clues are given by an unseen character. "Some of the utterances are less than helpful — 'I'm going to have to start again' becomes tiresomely familiar in the early stages. But after Henry Stauf, Professor Plum's endeavours with the lead piping in the conservatory will seem tame," he concludes.

Three winners from Cyberspace Seventeen will each win a trio of titles — the Oxford Reference Shelf, Oxford Compendium and Scrabble — and next week we'll take a look at more entries.

TIM WAPSHOTT

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

THE World Bridge Championships start tomorrow in Peking. They are held every two years, between the best teams from the seven zones into which the world is divided for bridge purposes. The number of teams from each zone is determined by the number of members of official bridge organisation each zone has. On that basis Europe is allowed four teams, North America three teams, and the other zones one or two each. The host country enters automatically, making 16 teams in all.

In the Open European championship the first four teams were Italy, France, The Netherlands and Sweden, and they represent Europe in the World Championship, the Bermuda Bowl. The French look to have the most experienced squad: they have four players who have won the teams Olympiad. The favourite for the Bermuda Bowl is USA II, with Meckstroth and Rodwell and Hamman and Wolf turning out yet again, along with Freeman and Nickell. The Nickell team has won six of the last seven American National events, a phenomenal record.

The European teams for the Venice Cup (the Women's World Championship) are France, Germany, Israel and Great Britain. The British team is Sandra Landy and Abbey Walker, Liz McGowan and Sandra Penfold, Sally Anoyrkatis and Heather Dhondy, with Tony Priday as the captain and David Burn as coach. Abbey Walker is 19, and is the youngest player ever to take part in an open world championship. The USA team of Simon and Munson, Picus and Pollack, and Sanborn and McCullum is probably the favourite, although if the French play as they did in winning the European they'll take some beating.

There has been a certain amount of controversy over the British Bridge League's decision to send a team, as five of the six players who came fourth in the European were unavailable for Peking.

As the Austrian team finished close behind Great Britain in the European, it seems likely theirs is a stronger team than the replacement team that the BBL have decided to send. The rules are such that if the BBL decided not to send a team, the Austrians would be invited to do so, thus strengthening the European challenge. However, it seems to me that the BBL's prime duty is to advance bridge in this country, not to do favours for the Austrians. If they can afford it, they should ensure that as many of our players as possible get experience of World Championship play. Mind you, the BBL could save a few bob by dispensing with the sports psychologist they are also sending to Peking. From what I've heard, most of her advice has been what Basil Fawlty suggested Sybil's subject should be for Master Mind — the bleeding obvious.

The Times will be carrying a report of the World Championships in the daily bridge column.

This hand caused problems in the 1987 World Championship in Jamaica.

Dealer West North-South game

♠ 8 3
♥ J 5 2
♦ K Q 9 5
♣ Q J 10 9

West		East
♠ Q J 2	N	♠ A K 7
♥ 7 6	W E	♥ A K Q 8 4 3
♦ 10 8 6 4 3 2	S	♦ A
♣ 5 4		♣ A K 8

♠ 10 9 6 5 4
♥ 10 9
♦ J 7
♣ 7 6 3 2

Seven Hearts is a reasonable contract, but at none of the four tables did East-West advance beyond Five Hearts. This was the British effort:

W	N	E	S
Flint		*Sheehan*	
1♣	Pass	2♣	Pass
2♥	Pass	3♥	Pass
3NT	Pass	5♥	All Pass

Flint's opening bid of One Club showed a hand that would normally pass under standard methods. In the late 1980s there was a vogue for systems in which an opening bid of Pass showed various strong hands (nowadays these systems are referred to as HUMs — "Highly Unusual Methods"), and Flint jumped on the bandwagon by insisting that he and I reverse the opening bid of Pass and One Club. It did not make life difficult for the opponents, and its main effect was to create more ways for us to forget the system.

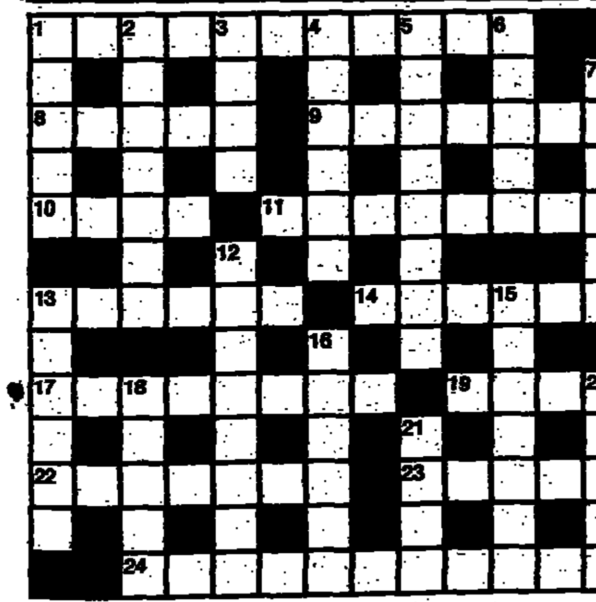
My response of Two Clubs was as though an Acol auction had started Pass — Two Clubs. Flint's reply of Two Hearts was "double negative", showing a hand that would pass a normal one-level opening. My Three Hearts and Flint's 3NT were natural.

My problem at that point was how to show my extra strength. Five Hearts was a blunderbuss effort, not really likely to produce much intelligent co-operation. Afterwards Flint pointed out forcefully that it would have been better for me to bid Four Clubs.

Then over Four Hearts I could proceed with Four Spades, and now Flint could value his third round controls in the black suits and bid Six Hearts. The French East, Ginette Chevalley, did follow almost exactly that sequence in the Venice Cup, but gave in when her partner only bid Five Hearts over Four Spades.

The Brits gained on the board: Armstrong and Forrester's HUM struck at the other table. Armstrong opened One Diamond on the North hand, showing a hand with less than an opening bid, and Ross overcalled Two Clubs. He thought his partnership agreement was to treat the One Diamond as a Pass, and so Two Clubs was like an opening Two Clubs. But his partner took it as clubs, and passed. Ross made Two Clubs.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 594

ACROSS
1 Off limits (3,2,6)
8 Process; attempt (5)
9 Begin voyage (3,4)
10 Travel round (4)
11 Sly suggestion (8)
13 Of the 30s or earlier (3-3)
14 Adjust, bring into accord (6)
17 Reciprocally (8)
19 Look sullen (4)
22 French Med. island (7)
23 Also known as (5)
24 Don Quixote's side-kick (6,5)

DOWN
1 Work for eight instruments (5)
2 Speech in honour, admiration (7)
3 Dossier (4)
4 Working excellently (2,4)
5 Almost (3,5)
6 Blot, dirty mark (5)
7 Recessed space (6)
12 (American) holiday (8)
13 Volcanic rock, an abrasive (6)
15 Impractically idealistic (7)
16 Take colour out of (6)
18 Ring shape (maths.) (5)
20 Girl's name; savings vehicle (5)
21 Instrument; keep (on about) (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 593

ACROSS: 1 Cosmos 4 Billet 8 Sell 9 Threaten 10 Incubator 13 Never 15 Maine 16 Gammy 18 Great Dane 21 Whatever 22 Sofa 23 Remote 24 Wind up

DOWN: 1 Cassio 2 Solecism 3 Sutra 5 In earnest 6 Late 7 Tender 11 Be my guest 12 Toile 14 Vagabond 16 Glower 17 Decamp 19 Arrow 20 Farm

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THE LISTENER CROSSWORD

No. 3326: X by Ozzie

THE completed diagram has four-fold symmetry: solvers should enter bar-lines; entry of clue numbers is optional, though reference is made to two. Clues are normal, and are grouped by word length. Within each group the words are clued in alphabetical order, with one exception (resulting from a run-on clue). Except for one Latin word, all words, including a prefix and an acronym, are in Chambers (1993).

A
Part of a stage in growth
Bent over to have a glass of Old
Was it right for the Miss to get part of demesne, having first of choice? Yes
Why does a show-off show off, Miss?
For inner membrane, gut's to be degutted
Baker misbehaved going towards the fair? Converse . . . .
. . . he did with a simpleton, for which had he lots for distribution? yes and no!
Depression at bottle's end is a disturbing thing
Lacking money? Guilty
Network's unpleasant matter — the law's involved
I may make a lair amongst rubbish
Bird you see a tinge of yellow about

B
Recess in 14 dn?
A lot of grape producers cross? cross!
Lamb 2 dn's left unfinished
The inclination of a philosopher
Man lacks the old colour, is lack-lustre
Needled — completely pointed?
Place parallel to ETON?
Who defied the waves ebbing? Years ago, that was novel

C
More than half of file's missing — it may be needed by Hacker
Flapper, beginning to get accent, should have moved to Paris
Woman in labour? adult is last to assist
Unhealthy state is terminated
Fresh start for wild one
Restrict writing to a writers' guild
An address of distinction: I could move to the place next door, too
I climb trees in Japan — after that, I'll be wrestling there

D
Perhaps I'm a dill to make R C abandon gypsy
Wink once, twice: finally, parliament rises
Recoil — "aitch" is used regularly in dialect
A long story in the papers: 'French art stolen, returned'
A plain lot of possessions, on reflection — do you agree?
Sounds like 'ogwash — so much old rope!
Moving East, I row dingy to Perth
Strange — long finale of Desdemona brought about by this

E
A trustworthy state conveys gold, and so endless money, to the financial centre
Adept sailors race in the Fall (2 words)
Ordained Priest, Dean, et Divine?
Dumb actor means to get leads

F
Fixes the purpose in Spring's return
We explode, throwing up litter with work done
Ingesting Coke (a quick one) and gin fizz
Flower of which a petal is rotten, in a sense

C	L	O	D	H	O	P	P	E	R	C	E
R	E	P	R	O	V	E	R	W	A	E	S
A	G	E	E	D	G	N	A	I	R	N	S
S	L	B	E	G	O	N	E	M	E	S	E
H	A	Y	S	E	E	D	T	E	F	O	X
E	N	E	W	S	L	O	O	P	Y	R	B
D	T	B	A	E	S	I	R	E	D	D	A
F	R	Y	Y	N	E	M	P	E	R	O	R
L	I	R	K	A	P	P	L	E	S	M	C
A	P	O	R	T	E	I	E	R	I	A	L
B	O	O	R	O	A	N	O	S	M	I	A
S	D	M	A	R	K	A	N	T	O	N	Y

Solution to No. 3323
Listeners by OBITER

Unclued

FRIENDS: FOX FRY PENN BARCLAY

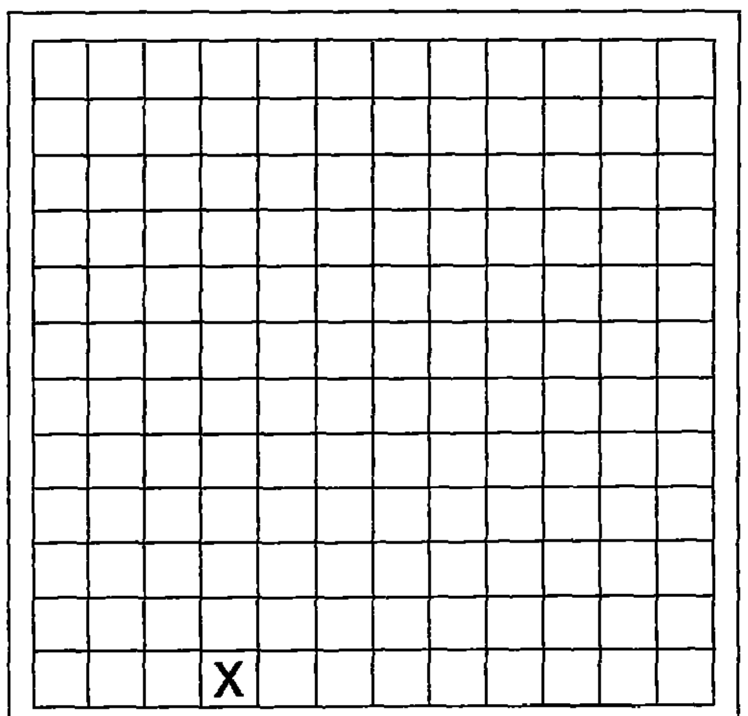
ROMANS: EMPEROR PRAETOR CENSOR SENATOR

COUNTRYMEN: CLODHOPPER HAYSEED BOOR HODGE

Associated by MARK ANTONY

Quotation: "I come to bury Caesar not to praise him"

The winner is Roger Robinson of Harold Wood, Essex. The two runners-up are R.P.C. Forman of Windsor, Berkshire, and Alan Relyea of Blackpool, Lancashire.



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3326

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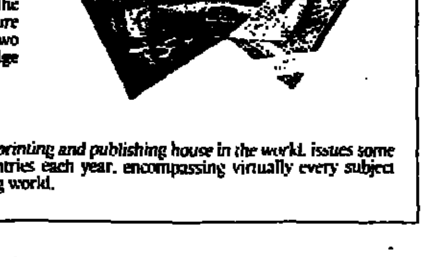
Cut out and send the completed crossword and coupon above to The Listener Crossword No 3324, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE. Entries must be received by Thursday, October 19.

The winner will receive: **The Cambridge Encyclopedia**, the most up-to-date and comprehensive one-volume encyclopedia available, with over 36,000 entries; **The Cambridge Encyclopedia of the English Language**, a highly illustrated format embracing every aspect of the English language in one volume; and **The Cambridge Guide to Literature**, covering all the major writers and movements in literature written in English up to the present. Two runners-up will receive **The Cambridge Guide to Literature.**



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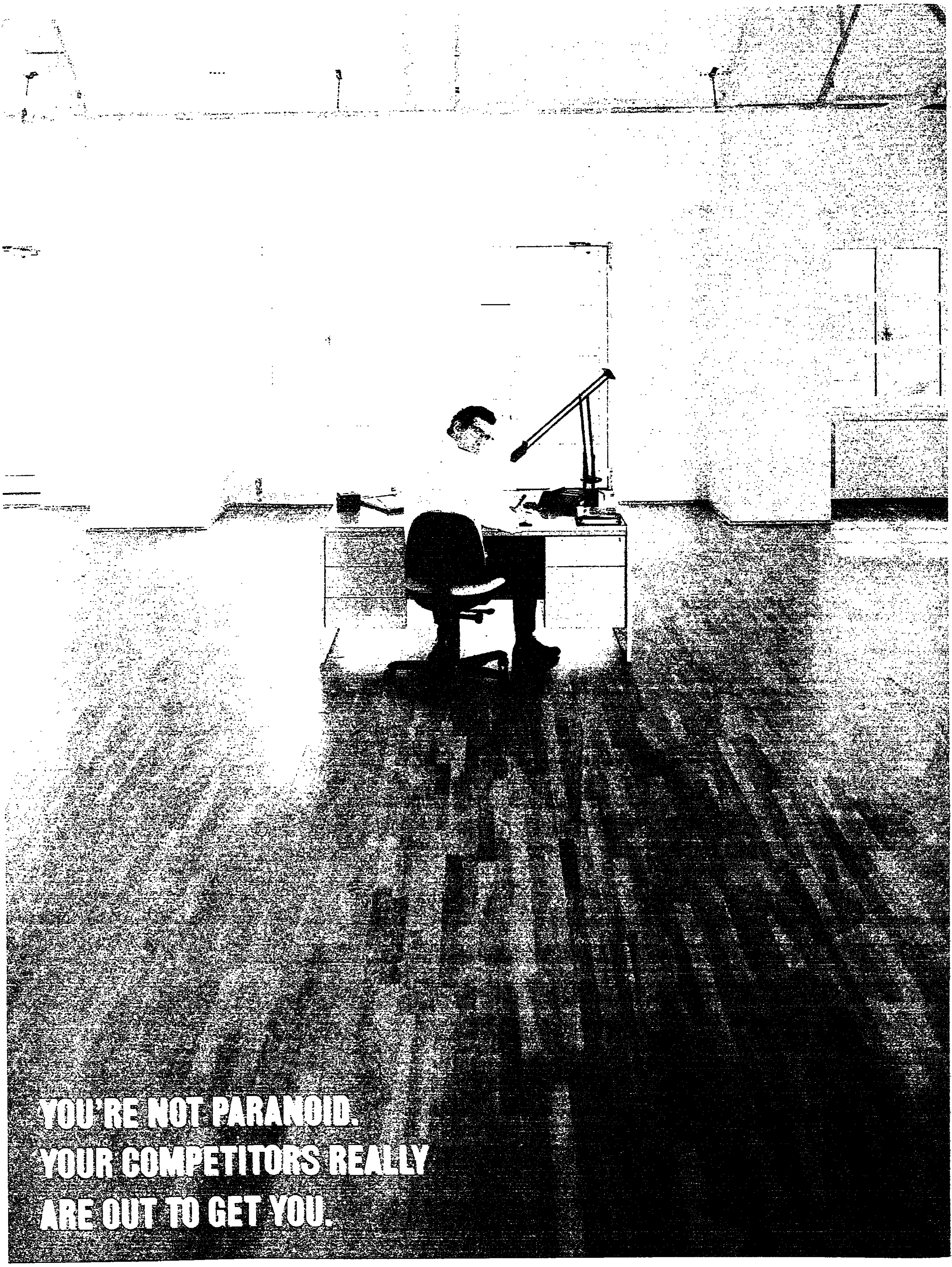
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YOUR COMPETITORS REALLY
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Five million miles of road test for the new Vectra

Page 5

THE TIMES

CAR 95

Picasso Junior's toy cars are set for an art record

Page 8

SATURDAY OCTOBER 7 1995

SHADES OF MEANING

Transported in glorious Technicolor

Black's chic, but now it really is any colour you want, says

Helen Mound

Shades of difference: Yellow is "earthy" and thieves don't go for it. Then there's the blue-red combination, or you can pick a colour permutation uniquely your own

ANDY TIPPING/MAX POWER

If you drive a black limousine, you are likely to be smart, sophisticated ... and to have your car stolen. Black cars are 20 per cent more likely to be stolen or broken into than red, white or blue models — and that could one day prompt your insurance company into charging you more if you choose the wrong colour for your car.

David Stevens, marketing director for Admiral Insurance, the company that initiated the analysis of 10,000 customer claims, says: "We collected the information to establish if it's a valid criterion on which to price car insurance. There are no plans to charge more for black cars, but insurers are always looking at ways to offer discounts on cars that are the least attractive to thieves. Colour might be a factor they will want to take into account."

An analysis of the colours that attract the attentions of thieves helps to betray our national stereotypes. For colours apparently betray our personalities and are as important to carmakers as to fashion houses and furniture makers. Carmakers spend millions trying to decide which colours will catch on and be as fashionable as the one on the next frock worn by Naomi Campbell. The trouble is that they have to pitch their ideas years in advance because it takes time for the technology to catch up.

Green and brown are earthy colours in tune with the environmental Nineties, but black means chic — and real money. As few as one in 100 cars in some ranges could be black, but they will be the special cars, the sports models and the executive limousines that shout *their status* — and attract thieves.

There are more red cars on British roads than any other colour, yet black sends a stronger status signal, with yellow and gold cars least popular with thieves. Admirals' figures show a black car has a 6.7 per cent chance of being stolen or broken into compared with 5.6 per cent for red, white or grey, 5.1 per cent for blue or silver, but 4.6 per cent for gold, yellow or brown.

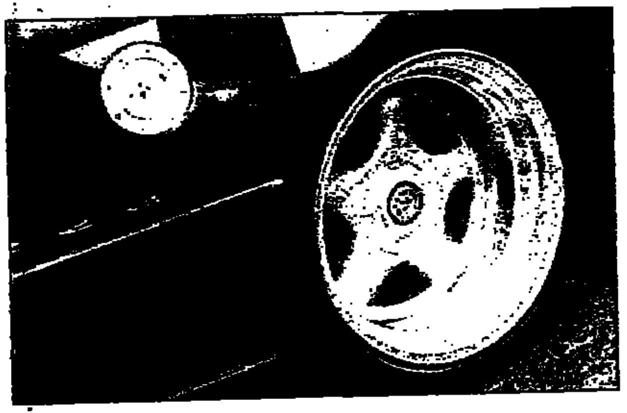
But these are only the basic tints and tones for carmakers; specialists can paint your model any shade you want. Technology using metallics, micas, heat reactive chemicals and even luminous paints means about 600 new colours are being created every year. Cars can be gloriously metallic, or even two colours at once.

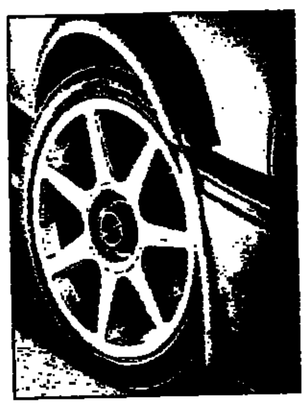
Marilyn White, an American, is manager of advanced styling for PPG, largest producer of automotive paint in the world, manufacturing paints for about two-thirds of all the vehicles made in the Western world. With help from 10 chemists and a colour consultant in each of the major European countries and one in Japan, she tries to forecast the fashionable colours to come.

Marilyn is on a circuit where fashion, furniture and car designers influence each other, so what is one the catwalk now could be on your car soon. The optimistic mood of the early Nineties brought bright, cheerful colours that are now appearing in the showrooms.

"We're currently working on 1999 and we expect green to be a major influence in car colours," she says. "As far back as 1920, green has had a history of coming in on one or two new cars and then making a very quick exit. But its future for the next century looks like being very popular. Earthy colours, such as oranges, browns and yellows, are in for the next few years — we're already seeing them on the catwalks."

When it comes to radical colours, though, look no further than Warwick Binks. He believes Britain's car colours are less than adventurous — certainly less than the astonishingly yellow Lotus Carlton he painted or the other challengingly bright cars that leave his East Anglian garage.





He watches colour fashions and attends the motor industry's annual reviews where colour predictions are made for trends up to five years into the future. Staid cannot describe any of Binks' creations: zany and vivid are more apt for the cars that come out of his workshop, Krazy Kreations, in Eye, Suffolk.

His work is extraordinary enough to have got him the job creating the project cars for *Max Power*, Britain's best-selling car conversions magazine. He also designs and decorates show cars for Courtenay, the engine tuning company.

Binks's creations vary from everyday single-colour paintwork to complex rainbow finishes in half a dozen colours. *Paint is sprayed on* with airbrushes and colours blended by a painstaking process of gently fading from one to another, allowing the correct amount of paint and air through the brushes. The real talent is avoiding any harsh lines between colours. And the colour doesn't have to stop on the bodywork, he can match the underside of the bonnet, the engine-bay and even the engine itself.

Within the conversion industry Binks's creations have become instantly recognisable. One of his most prominent projects is that striking yellow Lotus Carlton, the paintwork a unique American formula which glows in the dark, although Binks says: "I hate it. It is so vulgar."

Binks produces a new colour for every customer. "People can spend from £1,500 to £5,000 on specialist paintwork, but for that they get unique colours and their own personal design," he says. "I don't create the same colour twice, unless it's for repair."

For Marilyn White, the problem is manufacturing colours that can be reproduced accurately millions of times by companies the size of Fiat or General Motors. There is no point in the first car off the assembly line having a prang only for manufacturers to discover that PPG could not match the repair work. It has never happened yet ... and White and her specialists will make sure it never does.

COLOUR CODED

BLACK:
6.7 per cent chance of being stolen or broken into. Driven by by VIPs or people associated with success.

GREEN:
6.1 per cent. Normally driven by the cautious, but a rising number of British Racing Green sports cars may tip the balance towards glamour.

RED:
5 6 per cent. Most popular colour in almost any range Denotes ambitious people who dislike routine.

GREY:
5.6 per cent. Chosen by drivers who think others should follow their example.

BLUE:
5.1 per cent. Drivers who lack imagination. Popularity rising, particularly among Ford drivers.

SILVER:
5.1 per cent. For people who want to be noticed and seen as having status and style. Definitely an executive car colour.

GOLD OR YELLOW:
4.6 per cent. Shrieks that it wants to be seen. Launch colour for BMW M3 and sporty Volvo 850 estate.

A powerful argument against buying a new car.

Mercedes-Benz
Used Cars

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AA GRIDLOCK GUIDE

● LONDON

A406 *North Circular Road,* Upper Edmonton. Major roadworks between the Lea Valley *Viaduct and Fore Street, which* cause regular delays.

A302 Victoria Street, Victoria. *Closed eastbound due to gas* repairs between the Broadway and Broad Sanctuary. Major *delays expected for the Victoria* one-way system. Ends by October 14.

A102 *Blackwall* Tunnel northern approach. Closed in both directions this weekend underneath the A13 for major improvement work. Then every weekend from 9pm Friday until 9pm Sunday.

● SOUTH EAST

M25 Surrey. Roadworks and lane closures, between J6 and J8 (Godstone-Reigate) and J9 to J10 (Leatherhead-A3), with additional overnight restrictions which often cause delays.

A21 Coopers Corner, near *Hurst Green, East Sussex.* Major roadworks with temporary lights at the junction of *the B2099, until* November.

Abingdon, Oxfordshire. Various road closures in the town *centre for the annual Michael*mas Fair. From Sunday morning to Wednesday morning.

A287 near Fleet, Hampshire. Major roadworks with temporary traffic lights between the Mill Lane dual carriageway and Jacknalls Hill.

● SOUTH WEST

M5 *Avon.* Roadworks both ways between J20 and 21 (Almondsbury-Aust) for work on the new M49 second Severn crossing. Restrictions increase overnight and at weekends, when there can be long delays.

M5 Gloucestershire. Contraflow betweeen J11 and J12 (Cheltenham-Gloucester).

A35 Dorset. Major roadworks start on Tuesday between Morecombelake and Charmouth.

A3078 Probus, Cornwall. Road closed for roadworks from the A390 junction.

● MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA

A441 Birmingham. Pershore Road, Edgbaston closed for out-of-city traffic between Priory Road and Pebble Mill Road.

A11 Cambridgeshire. Road*works between* Stump Cross and Worstead Lodge, for work on the new dual carriageway.

A47 *Terrington Saint John,* Norfolk. Down to one lane eastbound for bypass con*struction work.*

M1 Leicestershire. Major roadworks continue with a *contraflow* between *junctions* 21 and 22, near Leicester.

● NORTH

M1 J47, Leeds, West Yorkshire. Roadworks and contraflow, two lanes each way during peak-times.

M62 West Yorkshire. Lane closures for roadworks on the slip roads at the Lofthouse interchange (with the M1) mean regular delays.

M62 North Yorkshire. Major roadworks and a contraflow at J34, Whitley Bridge.

M6 Cheshire. Major widening work near Thelwall viaduct, between J20 and 21a (Lymm-Croft).

A1M County Durham. Contraflow near Durham between *Carrville and Blind Lane inter*changes, with lane restrictions both ways.

● WALES

M4 J23-J24 Gwent (Magor-Newport East). Widening work continues in connection with the second Severn Crossing.

A449 and A40 Gwent. Major *works between Newport and* Monmouth, with much of the route down to a single lane.

A548 Clwyd. Major roadworks and a contraflow between Oakenholt and Kelsterton.

● SCOTLAND

A77 Glasgow. Major roadworks at junction of Eglinton Street, Pollokshaws Road and Cavendish Street.

A749 Glasgow. Dalmarnock Bridge closed southbound for major roadworks.

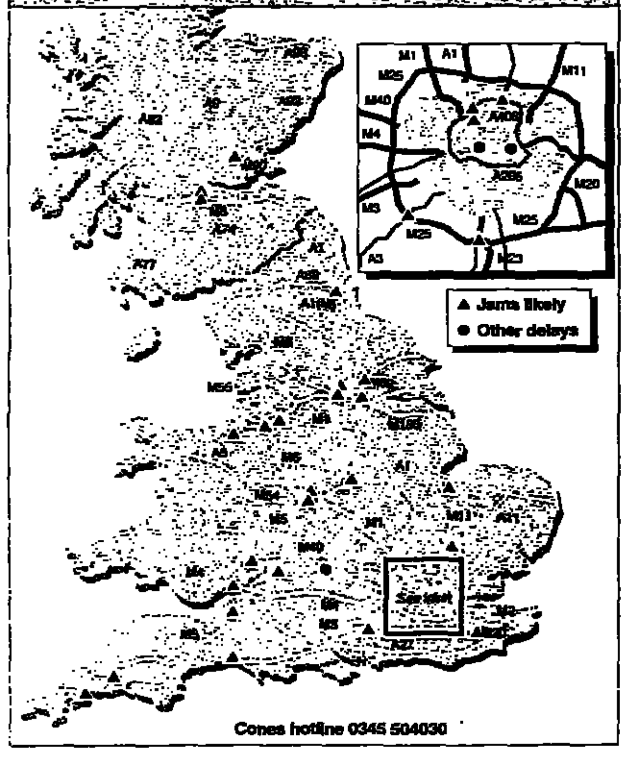
M90 Tayside. Lane closures in both directions for roadworks at J10 (Friarton Bridge).

● NORTHERN IRELAND

A42 County Antrim. Major roadworks and temporary traffic lights at Galgorm.

County Tyrone. Roadworks on Omagh bypass at junction with Derry Road and Drumquin Road.

MAJOR ROADWORKS



Cones hotline 0345 504030

NEWS IN BRIEF

Polo position

VOLKSWAGEN'S Polo has replaced the Nissan Micra as the best small car to buy, according to the Consumers' Association. The Polo's new refined engine, together with light, responsive steering made it the favourite with *Which?* magazine drivers' panel.

The Micra was still praised for being easy to drive and reliable, while the Fiat Punto was rated roomy and safe. Peugeot's 106 1.4XR had good handling and ride but was cramped in the front with an uncomfortable pedal layout. The Rover 114SLi had good security and above-average owner satisfaction.

Vectra tops Cavalier

VAUXHALL has turned up the heat in the car price war by announcing its new Vectra range will be priced 1.6 per cent more than the Cavalier range it replaces on October 20. The range starts at £12,235 for the entry level 5-door 1.6 8v Envoy to £20,345 for the 2.5 V6 CDX, but every car gets anti-lock brakes, *power steering and driver airbag as standard.*

Fiat punts prices

FIAT cars are up in price this week by an average 1.9 per cent. However, the Punto range remains unchanged until later this year when it gets a specification upgrade. Cheapest Fiat *is the* Cinquecento S at £5,489 on the road, and the most expensive is the Coupé 16v turbo at £19,489.

Nuts about lugs

FORGET Naomi Campbell and moody pictures of cars crashing through deserts: the big advertising coup which will *boost sales of Land Rovers in the United States is* ... lug nuts. The American trade newspaper, *Automotive News,* reports that Land Rover is planning to run pictures of its lug nuts alongside those from the Ford Explorer and Jeep Grand Cherokee. The reason for this bizarre display? Land Rover lug nuts are *heavier, you see.*

Scooting ahead

SUZUKI is offering free insurance on its range of scooters on top of a finance deal which means buyers could be riding for a deposit of £25 and payments of £35 a month. Four machines — from 50cc to 125cc — are included in the scheme while the insurance offers third party cover.

Princely purchase

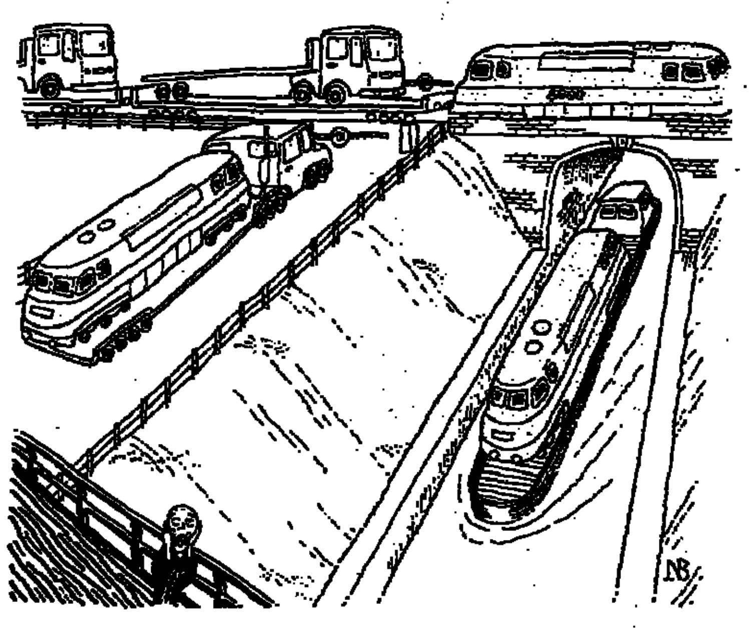
AN ASTON Martin V8 Vantage Volante which belonged to Prince Charles goes up for sale on December 11 at the RAF Museum, Hendon, north London, with proceeds *to the Prince* of Wales Charities Trust, which gives to the disabled, young people, disaster relief and environmental projects. The Aston was one of 22 made to what is known in-house at the Newport Pagnell factory in Buckinghamshire as "the Prince of Wales" specification. *With 46,000 miles on the clock, the British Racing* Green 5.3-litre Aston could bring in £100,000.

It was a 75-tonne diesel locomotive, and they had to move it 250 miles. How did they send it? By road, of course

On a journey to the madhouse

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION

Peter Barnard



The train now standing at Crewe has just been refurbished, and is therefore in perfect working order for *the journey to Plymouth.* It will be stopping at various points on the M6, the M42, the M5 and the A38 in order to pick up police escorts from no less than seven forces. The journey will take three days. And the fare? About £1,800.

Have I gone mad? No, but *someone* has. For The National Trust, a diesel locomotive 65 feet long and weighing 70 tonnes, has the *usual number of wheels set the usual* distance apart so that it can conveniently travel on the rail network. To do so, the engine only needed certification when its refurbishment was finished, and that is easily obtained.

But The National Trust travelled to Plymouth on the back of a lorry at a maximum speed of 30mph, giving motorists no end of a thrill as traffic backed up behind. It went by road *because that was cheaper than* sending the engine by rail.

The National Trust arrived in Plymouth on *September 28 — there* was a picture in the *Western Evening Herald* of it blocking a dual carriageway as it was manoeuvred into the Laira rail depot.

I have now spoken to every company involved in this ridiculous journey and, although none wishes to be quoted, they all agree that sending a working engine by road is, *in the words of one of them,* "absolutely bonkers".

And, of course, the real cost of the trip was much higher than the charge levied by Allely's Haulage of Studley in Warwickshire, because the public had to pay for police escorts from the seven forces.

I wrote recently in defence of road haulage, but this kind of thing gets lorries a bad name. Allely's are merely making a living: the culprits would seem to be Railtrack. But the *real blame rests with the Govern*ment for the shambolic privatisation of *the* railways, not for nothing called "the poll tax on wheels".

The National Trust is leased to Great Western Railways by Angel Trains, which in turn uses Rail Express Systems (RES), an offshoot of British Rail, to shift rolling stock around the country. All these companies are bemused by Railtrack's charges, and a source at one of them told me: "The only competition *Railtrack has is the rail regulator,* and he should be doing something about the situation."

Railtrack will not say what it would have charged to allow the engine on to its tracks, but that hardly matters. Allely's will not, of *course, discuss* individual contracts, but when I asked them for a quote to carry a 70-tonne, 65ft load from Crewe to Plymouth *they estimated* £600 a day. We know the journey took three days and that it would have gone by rail had that been cheaper. Therefore Railtrack must have wanted more *than* £1,800 to make a journey of 250 miles.

Nice work if you can get it, though on this occasion Railtrack couldn't. But there is a complication. Angel *Trains does not have* an ongoing contract with Railtrack for access to the network, because it does not need the service often enough. *Therefore,* when RES is operating on behalf of Angel there is a one-off charge as an "open access operator", which is considerably higher than the norm.

Nor is mere money the only problem faced by rail operators when they wish to move rolling stock. *In one case where a company* seeking to move, by rail, two units of rolling stock from the Liverpool area to the Midlands took six months to get the paperwork sorted out.

I am all for competition, but Railtrack has none, except the roads. If we have reached the stage where *the cheapest way to move a function*ing railway engine from A to B is to put it on a lorry, then we are at the gates of the *madhouse.*

Vaughan Freeman talks to one of Britain's victims of aggressive car thieves who strike in broad daylight

Nightmare of the carjackers

MARTIN BEDDALL

Offensive action: Ironically, the attacks could be a back-handed compliment to the success of manufacturers in making cars harder to break into

Armed car-jackings were once the stuff of street gang movies and Los Angeles *ghettos. Not any longer. In a* leafy West London suburb, Peter Walker and his two young daughters came face to face with modern car crime as an armed gang stole his £43,000 BMW at knifepoint.

For Peter and his family, the *latest Home Office crime sta*tistics showing a 13 per cent fall nationwide in car thefts and a 7 per cent drop in thefts from cars — with car crime in London down 22 per cent — will be little consolation.

Only now, a few weeks after *the attack, is Mr* Walker, an executive with BMW (GB) Ltd, coming to terms with the *incident,* which began as he was driving his high-performance B3 Alpina car from the West Country along the M3 and then towards the Chiswick area of London.

"It was a Saturday afternoon, around 6pm, and I had our two daughters in the car. Alice who is five-and-a-half, and Kate, who is four. I had parked the car, and Alice had got out. I was standing next to the car and Kate was still in *the back,* waking up.

"I noticed these three guys coming towards me. All three were black, and they were all wearing the same Umbro sports gear, and I thought at first that perhaps they all belonged to the same sports team. *They went past and* around the corner.

"Then they came back, by which time I had a load of papers in my hands. They came over to me, they were standing right next to me, and asked me the time. At that *stage I thought they* were going to steal my watch, and I was becoming concerned.

"One of them grabbed an arm, my other arm was grabbed and they were forced back, and then a 6in knife was stuck into my ribs, and one of them took the car keys. At one point I thought they were going to drive off with Kate *still in the back of the* car.

"It was quite a scary thing at the time, especially as it happened in broad daylight. *I had* never been attacked by anybody before, and I couldn't quite believe it was happening. *Then they told me to get* her out. We bundled Kate out, they drove off, and I rushed to dial 999."

Only after the police had arrived, did Peter start to put things together, and remembered being followed by a black saloon with three men in it before he had parked. He walked round the corner and there, the doors unlocked and tyres still warm, was a black Ford Scorpio.

It transpired that the Scorpio had also been stolen at knifepoint. Almost certainly the gang had by chance spotted Mr Walker and his metal*lic green M-registered B3, one* of only eight in Britain, followed him, and struck when he was at his most vulnerable.

"I simply think I was in the wrong place at the wrong time," he says. "They saw the car, *and decided they wanted* it and that they were going to have it. At least they traded up from the Ford to a better car."

'I thought they were going to drive off with Kate'

Fortunately, Mr Walker and his children were unhurt in the incident and have not been subsequently traumatised. He says: "I'm now annoyed that I hadn't done more — not that I'd had a go or anything, but possibly that I should have realised I was being followed and driv*en perhaps straight to a police* station instead of parking in a quiet residential road.

"*At* the end of the day, though, it is only a car. Things go through your mind, like would it have happened if I *had not been in such a flash,* exotic and desirable car, but life goes on."

Ironically, such attacks could well be a back-handed compliment to the success car manufacturers have had in *making* cars harder to break into initially, and with electronic immobilisers, made them all but impossible to drive off.

The missing B3 Alpina has since been recovered by the police, who *spotted it in north London* where, despite having been fitted with false number plates, it was instantly recognised. Its recovery also saved BMW from not a little embarrassment — it vanished within *24 hours of being borrowed* from a specialist BMW dealer.

Meanwhile Mr Walker is thinking of driving more modest cars in future, but nothing too dowdy: "Perhaps I'll stick to a BMW 316 for a while."

While car-jacking is still a rarity *in Britain, there* have been a spate of thefts in which motorists have been singled out for attack while waiting in traffic jams.

To beat such opportunist thieves (see Security Tips below), remember the key advice: Do not leave items of value, *such as mobile phones,* briefcases or handbags, in public view particularly on the front seat. An expensive watch attached to a wrist languidly resting on wound-down driver's door frame might also *prove tempting* to the wrong sort of person.

Security tips:

1 Keep car doors locked to prevent car-jackers *striking* at traffic lights and when stopped in town traffic.

2 With *hot summer* weather behind us, it is easier now to ensure you drive with windows and sunroof open only a few inches.

3 Avoid stopping in quiet, unlit streets. Park if possible under a street light.

4 *If you believe you are being* followed, keep calm and drive to a police station or public area such as a garage forecourt.

5 A map in the car should help you avoid having to stop and ask strangers for directions, and a mobile phone in the car gives added security.

Kevin Eason on a classic wrangle

MG clubbed over membership row

The new MG*F*: company accused of "favouritism"

The world's biggest clas*sic car club has protest*ed to Rover after the company offered owners of the new MG*F* membership of a rival organisation.

Owners taking delivery of the new sports car this week were being told they could have free membership of the MG Car Club, which has about 10,000 members.

But officials of the MG Owners' Club, which has *50,000* members throughout the world, were angered by the decision and have written a letter complaining about what they call "blatant favouritism" *to John Towers, Rover's chief* executive.

The owners' club claims that *dealers are against the offer,* saying they should not be forced by Rover to steer MG*F* owners towards the smaller MG Car Club. They argue *that the company* should adopt an even-handed approach towards both organisations.

The MG Car Club is the oldest, formed in 1930, but the Owners' Club, which came together in 1973, has been the most *successful in recruiting* members and is now the biggest single marque club in the world.

The two have co-existed in *friendly rivalry for years,* but Rover's decision seemingly to favour one over the other has led to harsh words and a rash of complaints.

Roche Bentley, secretary of the MG Owners', says: "The dealers who reported this to us were upset as they didn't want to be *told* which club to support. Many dealers enjoy an excellent relationship with the MG Owners' Club and felt that Rover should be even-handed."

The row seems to have started because Stephen Cox, a manager inside Rover at MG Cars, is also a director of the MG Car Club. Bentley claims that Cox initiated moves to have dealers pay a £20 membership fee for entrance *to the MG Car Club on* behalf of all new MGF owners.

Bentley adds: "We protested Cox's instruction and the fact *that* he was supporting one club over another by inferring that Rover was paying for the memberships."

Rover executives were yesterday at the launch of the MG*F* and could not be contacted, but it is understood the company is now reviewing its *offer.*

The MG Car Club issued press releases on the day of the MG*F*'s launch, publicising the offer of free membership. The release *said: "By offering this* exclusive membership package. MG Cars has renewed the links that the MG Car Company established 65 years ago when the MG Car Club was formed at the company's headquarters at Abingdon."

Membership would entitle owners to a monthly copy of the club magazine, the opportunity to take part in club meetings and take advantage of club insurance schemes.

Mike Hawke, the club chairman, said: "In 1930, when John Thornley established the MG Car Club, every purchaser of an MG was given free membership."

However, Bentley *says* the MG Car Club broke away from the company in 1969, helping to trigger the start of the Owners' *Club, which also* offers benefits to MG*F* owners. It has arranged a deal for *MGF* owners which could mean big savings on insurance premiums.

Average annual premiums would be £235 for policies which limit mileage to 5,000 a year (although a policy of £135 is available for owners who do *only* 2,000 miles annually). A no-claims bonus is not necessary to start the policy, according to the club. Bentley says: "It has been accepted by *insurers that owners who buy* an MGF as a second car will cherish it as a classic."

MGF owners can contact the club on 01480-484800 for a quotation and immediate cover by telephone. If the MGF is stolen or written off in the first *year of ownership,* the policy covers a replacement car.

Continuing his series on British pioneers, **Lord Montagu of Beaulieu** looks at Laurence Pomeroy, the man who made Vauxhall's name

Designed for an automatic place in history

There is no production car named after Laurence Pomeroy, and he never owned a factory. Only four Pomeroy cars were made, in America, yet he was responsible for the car that made Vauxhall's name and the forerunner of modern automatic transmissions, the Daimler Fluid Flywheel.

Laurence Henry Pomeroy was born in 1883 and spent his youth in the East End of London. He became a railway engineering apprentice at the *North London Locomotive* Works at Bow, and at the same time started a four-year engineering course at the East London Technical College as a Whitworth Exhibitioner. Later in life he wrote about the demands of both roles, apprentice and student.

"I think the ordinary apprentice ... should be prepared to put in evening classes three nights a week for two or three hours each night, and on the remaining nights he *should put in two or three* hours homework. If he is up at five in the morning and knocks off at six at night ... he will not have very much time left for himself ... Unless a lad is prepared absolutely to devote himself to the profession, he does not deserve to get on."

Pomeroy did get on, starting with civil engineers Humphreys & Co in Victoria Street, London, in 1903, *and making his* acquaintance with road vehicles at Thornycrofts in Basingstoke. In 1906 he moved to Vauxhall at Luton, where he became assistant to the chief engineer, Frederick Hodges. Vauxhalls were not particularly distinguished cars at that time. A 12/14hp three-cylinder car had given way to an 18hp four, but this was an old-fashioned T-head design with separately-cast cylinders, and chain drive still an option. The *company decided that* for the Two Thousand Miles Trial of 1908 a new car was needed.

Hodges was taking an ex*tended holiday in Egypt over* the winter of 1907-08, so it fell to young Pomeroy to prepare the new design. In order to improve *his* French he *had* been studying a textbook on *L'Automobile à l'Essence*, whose author stressed the importance of high piston speeds and the necessity of good breathing provided by large valves and a free-flowing exhaust system. Pomeroy put these lessons into practice in his 20hp engine, which had the more up-to-date L-head valve layout and cylinders cast in one block.

Output went up from 23.5bhp at 1,800rpm on the 12/16 to 38bhp at 2,500rpm. The Trial entry, driven by Percy Kidner, Vauxhall's managing director, covered the 2,000 miles with no involuntary stops, won its class and scored best marks overall. *The Automotor Journal* wrote: "That performace brought Vauxhall from a comparatively uninteresting background into the full glare of public interest", or, as the historian Michael Sedgwick put it, "Nobody would dismiss Luton again as merely the home of the straw hat."

One hopes that Hodges enjoyed his holiday, for on his return he was rapidly replaced by Pomeroy, who was made works manager and effectively took charge of design work for the next ten years. In 1913, aged 30, he was elected a full member of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, the youngest man to achieve this distinction.

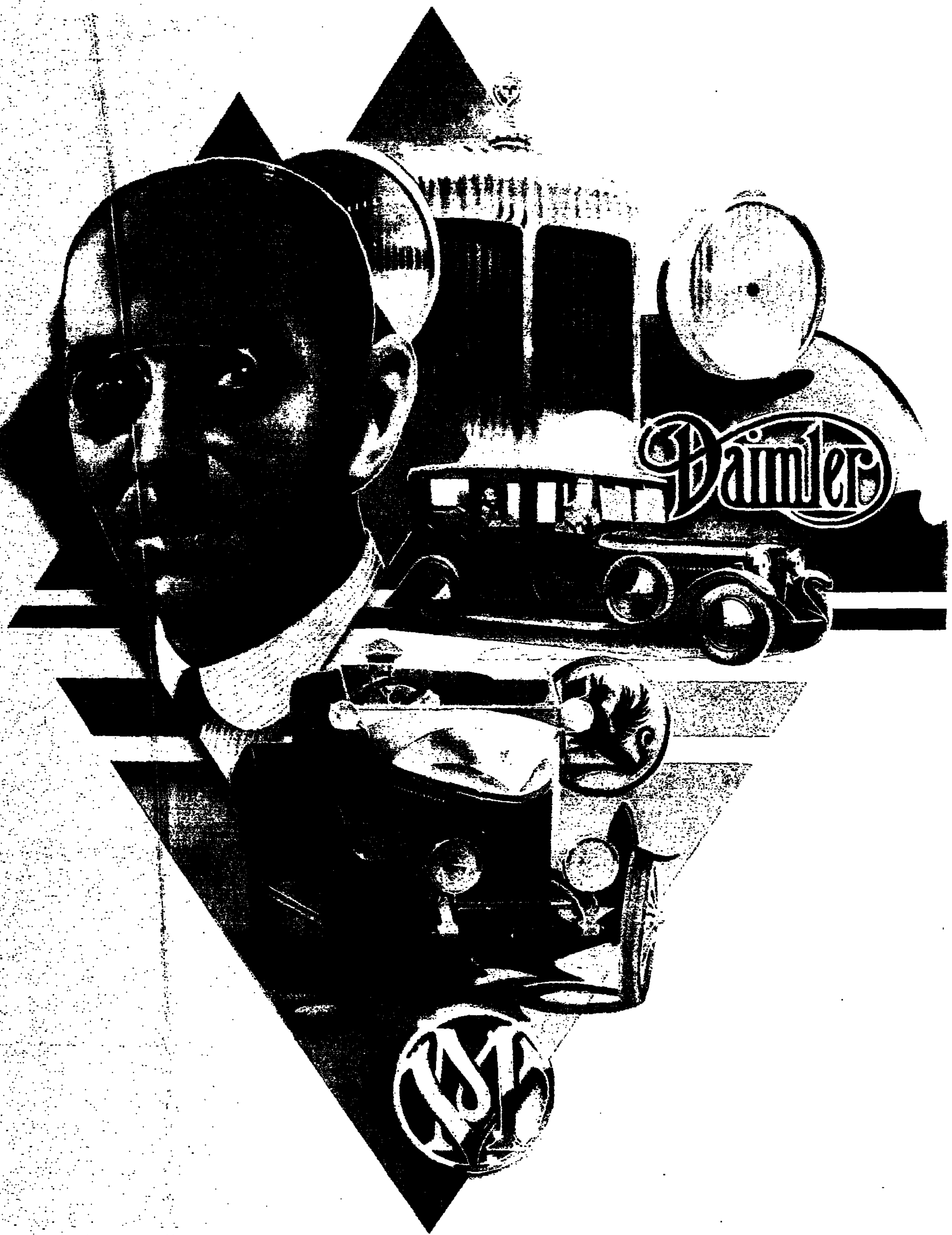
The 3-litre 20hp engine powered a number of sporting cars, including streamlined models which took many records at Brooklands and three four-seater door-less sporting tourers that were entered in the *1910 Prince* Henry Trials in Germany. Output [illegible] new 60bhp with no increase in engine size, although the Prince Henry Vauxhalls were no match for Ferdinand Porsche's much larger-engined Austro-Daimlers, they had trouble-free runs and this encouraged the *makers to offer the car to the* public for the 1911 season.

Luton would no longer be merely the home of the straw hat

It is often thought of as the first sports car, for high performance was achieved by careful design rather than just by increasing engine size. Pomeroy *did* increase the size for 1913, to 4 litres, and then to 4.5 litres in the Prince Henry's successor, the 30/98. This gave 90bhp and became one of Britain's best-known sports cars.

In 1919 Pomeroy left Vauxhall, apparently because they allowed financial considerations to interfere with inter*esting lines of investigation*. At the time of his departure he was working on an overhead camshaft six and an L-head V-12, *neither of which* was favoured by the board.

Pomeroy was eventually to join Daimler, but only after seven years in America, where he worked for the Aluminum Company of America (Alcoa), trying to perfect a car that used a high proportion of aluminium alloy. It was not "all-aluminum," as has been claimed, for the engine had cast-iron sleeves in an aluminium block. The bodies were all aluminium, and were built by the American Body Company in Buffalo, NY.



Engineered to perfection: Laurence Pomeroy with, from top, the Double Six and 1931 King's Own Daimlers and the 1914 Prince Henry Vauxhall. Illustration by Philip Castle

Some sources say four were made, some six, and the matter is complicated by the *fact that three cars were built* by Pierce-Arrow, also located in Buffalo, using Pomeroy-designed four-cylinder engines. *Although* they were extensively tested up to 1928, there was no production.

Pomeroy returned to England in October 1926, when Percy Martin of Daimler invited him to join the new company, Associated Daimler, formed by a merger of Daimler with the Associated Equipment Co. famous as makers of London's buses. Pomeroy was *to be chief* engineer at a salary of £3,500 (he had asked for £4,000), with responsibility for the new group's commercial vehicles.

The merger lasted only until 1929, and his only contribution was a coach chassis that made extensive use of aluminium alloys. This was made under the Daimler name as the CF6. In 1928 he became general manager of Daimler, and in 1929, managing director. While he was not responsible for the first Double Six Daimler, *which appeared the month* before he returned to England, he designed the smaller 30/40 Double Six of 1930, as well as a 3.5-*litre six*.

Both incorporated the Fluid Flywheel, a self-changing epicyclic transmission which was combined with a pre-selector gearbox. All the driver had to do was to move a lever on the steering column-mounted quadrant. This important step towards fully automatic transmission was used on Daimlers until 1960. Another important *Pomeroy contribution was to* replace the sleeve valve engines, used since 1910, with poppet valves. He did this first *on the CP6 bus chassis in 1932*, and the last sleeve valve cars were made in 1934.

As well as designing Daim*lers, Pomeroy recommended* the introduction of the small BSA and Lanchester Tens, made from 1933 onwards. *These were successful sellers*, but led to a clash in 1935 with Geoffrey Burton, the new chairman, who was not famil*iar with the motor industry*. He was apparently persuaded by efficiency experts that Daimler's future lay in con*centrating on larger cars; their* differences proved irreconcilable, and in May 1936 Pomeroy announced his resig*nation, although he had, in* effect, been sacked.

He received £3,000 in lieu of 12 months' notice and in July 1936 he joined *De Havilland* Aircraft as general manager of the engine division. This was evidently not a satisfactory *move, for 16 months later he* became a patent consultant. At the outbreak of the Second World War, he joined the *Claudel Hobson carburetter* company. While working there, he died of a heart attack, at the age of 58, in May 1941. *His son, also Laurence*, was a journalist and technical editor of *The Motor*. In 1966 he died, at the same age and of the same cause.

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M3
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Heat, cold, traffic jams, desert dust, snow, cobblestones . . . **Kevin Eason** looks at how Vauxhall tested its new Vectra to the limits

Sentenced to two years' hard labour

Watch your speed: On one spectacularly banked high-speed race track, the test drivers expected to bid for 140mph; instead they were warned that radar guns would be checking that they kept to the limits

It was the ultimate test of man and machine, a torture that would stress even the toughest car and a driver with nerves of steel. When Vauxhall wanted to know if its new Vectra could survive beyond reasonable limits, the company sent it into a Japanese traffic jam.

Over two years, General Motors sent hundreds of prototypes more than 4.8 million miles — equivalent to 200 times around the world — before the Vectra was allowed into showrooms. That meant taking cars to the limits of endurance in the most extreme climates and conditions, bouncing across the freezing tundra of Canada, the searing heat of Spain, or whizzing through the desert of the American West.

But it was the roads of Tokyo in sultry, stultifying heat with temperatures of 40C and humidity of 97 per cent, that pushed GM's élite band of test drivers close to the edge.

"Believe me, that is some kind of tough examination of any car when you get out on to a Japanese motorway in those conditions," says Hans Riemann, head of testing. "The heat combined with that humidity was really unpleasant and the traffic is so dense the car barely moves for long periods — just stop and go, stop and go. When we were supposed to be travelling quite quickly, we could hardly move, covering only about 17 miles in two-and-a-half hours."

That 7mph marathon was good training for the test drivers, who were to discover they were unlikely to reach the outer limits of the Vectra — the replacement launched next month for the venerable Cavalier — when they turned up at GM's proving ground at Milford, Michigan.

They expected to be taking the Vectra to speeds up to 140mph on the breathtakingly banked top lane of the high-speed bowl; instead, they discovered strict speed limits, and even radar guns to check they did not break the regulations.

"Some of the drivers were a little worried about the radar guns; they were used to the idea of being checked for speed out on the motorways but not being watched on a high-speed bowl," Riemann says.

The Vectra testing programme has been one of the most punishing in the motor industry to help engineers check the durability of every nut and bolt of engines, transmissions and suspensions. Components were tested in virtual reality by computer long before they were even made and fitted to the prototypes, and cars were also bounced over thousands of theoretical miles on mechanical test rigs at the Vauxhall-Opel development centre at Russelsheim in Germany.

But Riemann says: "None of these simulations allows us to dispense with trials on the road, proving ground or race track."

A core team of 20 drivers was selected to take cars to countries including South Africa, Taiwan, Indonesia, India and Brazil, where local GM engineers were drafted in to draw up routes that sought out the worst roads.

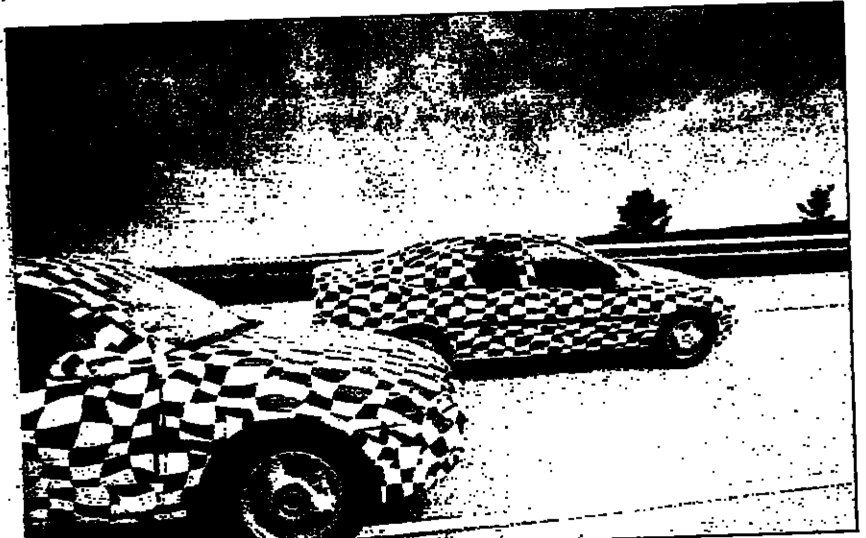
Like the 25 miles of potholes and cobblestones known as the *cuaro de jacare*, or alligator skin route, near Sao Paolo in Brazil. Once the Vectras took to the road, they were not only being examined by the engineers, but potentially spy photographers who could ruin the secrecy of the launch with a snatched picture published in European magazines.

GM fought back with a new black and white chequered paint scheme which covered each Vectra in a military-type camouflage, its outline blurred with the background so that long-range pictures would prove useless..

From the misery of Japan, Vectras were sent to Death Valley, California, for temperatures up to 50C and to Canada and Scandinavia to face minus 42C. They sped around the flat track of the Nurburgring — where Michael Schumacher won the European Grand Prix last weekend — and drove ten miles of Los Angeles highway through 960 sets of lights, restarting 33,500 times, using the clutch 152,000 times and brakes 150,000, with computers recording every shake, jiggle, and missed beat.

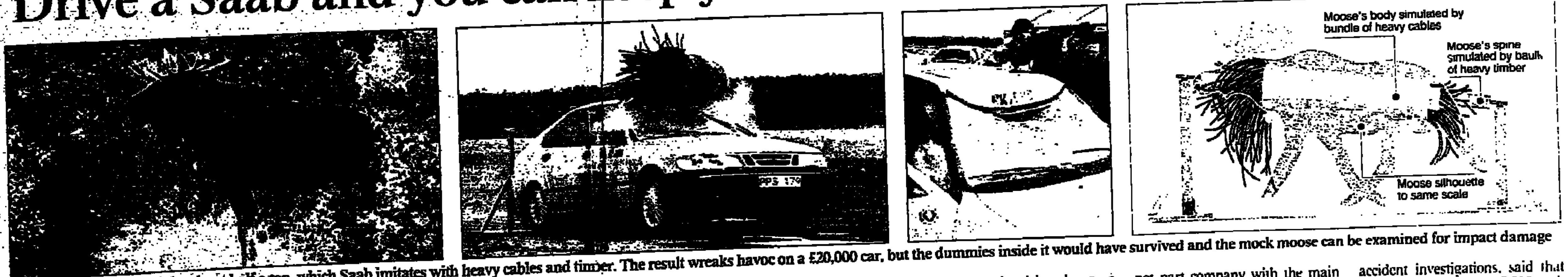
In the end, however, the ultimate judgment came not from electronics but the drivers' own "seat of the pants" tests. Their feel for the car and its ride and handling largely helped to dictate the way the Vectra is today — especially after an examination organised by Vauxhall over 975 feet of cobblestones. The Vectras crossed the stretch 640 bone-jarring times over bumps so harsh that no driver was allowed more than an hour behind the wheel. Even a Japanese motorway seemed a treat after that.

Temperature control: Tests included the heat of Spain, left, and sub-zero conditions in Canada, where the thermometer fell to minus 42C



Chequered career: In Brazil, the Vectra ran in black and white military-style camouflage to defeat spying photographers shooting at long range

Drive a Saab and you can keep your head should you run into a moose



PPS 179
Moose's body simulated by bundle of heavy cables
Moose's spine simulated by baulk of heavy timber
Moose silhouette to same scale

A real moose, left, weighs about half a ton, which Saab imitates with heavy cables and timber. The result wreaks havoc on a £20,000 car, but the dummies inside it would have survived and the mock moose can be examined for impact damage

Elk, moose, and reindeer have been meandering across Sweden for a thousand years, scarcely noticing, it seems, roads that have crossed their traditional paths for the past fifty.

They get hit by cars, trucks, and buses. They are usually killed, while for the cars, trucks, and buses the result is often something worse than a bloody nose. It's not like hitting a hedgehog, a rabbit or even a large badger; it's like hitting a well-built horse.

An average moose weighs 450 kilos and colliding with the best part of half a ton of dense bone and muscle at 45mph can be devastating. Sweden has more than 5,000 such accidents a year, with a high proportion of injuries and around 15 human fatalities.

In 1980, Bjorn Lundholm, managing director of Saab Automobile was killed when his car collided with a moose. His death encouraged Saab in its safety programme. It is one of several manufacturers who regard statutory barrier crash tess that meet European and American regulations as little more than a starting point, even devising its own moose crash test.

A moose's centre o gravity is above bonnet height. The animal's legs are knocked from under it in a collision, and it rolls over on to its back. Its heaviest impact tends to be with the windscreen, which it strikes with its backbone, shattering both. A laminated windscreen will not let the moose through. The glass is interleaved with a strong layer of plastic which stops it, but the animal's inertia can tear open the roof of a car, decapitating the driver and front passenger.

Saab replicates a typical moose collision by parcelling a bundle of heavy cables into an untidy-looking moose, weighted to its broad-shouldered proportions and supported on a baulk of heavy timber to represent its spine. On the test track at Trollhatten, I watched a car pulled by cable along a steel guide-beam, colliding with the artificial moose at 45mph with an awe-inspiring bang, a crash of shattering glass that wrought havoc on a £20,000 Saab.

The top was buckled only as far as the leading edge of the sunroof. The doors still opened and shut, the driver's airbag went off and the dummies inside were unscathed.

Saab researches not only test impacts under laboratory conditions, but sends teams out to pick over the wreckage of cars in real accidents. As a result, its engineers have reinforced the windscreen surrounds to ensure the roof does not part company with the main body of the car. The roots of the windscreen pillars are fortified with extra-strength fillets, and the top rail braced with a high-tensile bar welded to the screen struts.

Saab's safety programme lays down not only the seven statutory tests to meet European safety standards but 21 more to meet its own stiff criteria for maintaining the integrity of the passenger compartment in car-to-car collisions and offset barrier tests. Christer Nilsson, Saab's head of accident investigations, said that analysis of more than 5,000 accidents provided a unique database.

"We analyse what happens to car occupants and try and build the cars accordingly," he says. "We're not protecting dummies. We're protecting people."

Now all Saab hopes is that the moose will not genetically re-engineer itself with a deeper-section backbone and carbon-fibre rib-cage.

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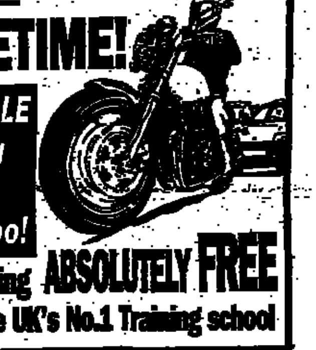

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95M Classic SE A 95 Mod Rioja Red 5T £32,995	NEW RANGE ROVER
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94L Vogue SE (95 Model) Montpellier Red, Sorrel Leather, A/Bags, 21k £27,995
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Welcome in from the cold. **Vaughan Freeman** reports on Audi's new deal for used car buyers

Second-hand, but first class

For years, used car buyers have been forced to tramp frozen forecourts viewing rows of neglected wrecks, while the new car buyer is cossetted inside gleaming glass palaces by attentive sales staff.

The new buyer gets test drives, warranties, finance deals and peace of mind, the used buyer gets all the reassurance of a punctured lifevest. But now manufacturers and dealers have realised that there is as much, and often more, profit to be made selling used cars which have been checked and approved, than cars fresh from the factory.

Last year 6.9 million used cars were sold in Britain, compared to fewer than two million new. Of those sold used, about £14 billion worth — almost half the total — were sold through franchised dealers. Which is why Audi has launched its Approved Used Car Programme. The idea is to lower the cost of joining the Audi "club" by selling Audis in a way that enables used car customers to travel Club Class instead of suffering the purchase ordeal in steerage.

Numerous approved used car schemes have been launched over the past two to three years. Volume car sellers have their own approved schemes, such as Vauxhall's Network Q. Audi will compete in the prestige used market with rival programmes such as Jaguar's Approved Used Cars (cars under five years and 60,000 miles), and the Quality Used Car Warranty from Mercedes-Benz (10 years and 100,000 miles).

Len Hunt, Audi director, says: "The programme has been introduced to offer a competitive package of customer benefits which will add peace of mind to the purchase of used vehicles."

Under the scheme, cars up to five years old and which have covered fewer than 75,000 miles are offered with 12 months comprehensive warranty, or the balance of a three-year Audi dealer warranty. There is also a full written appraisal and comprehensive workshop inspection, total reconditioning including paintwork and engine, and 14-day exchange offer if the customer finds a "valid reason to seek an alternative vehicle". Audi also checks the car's legal status and mileage with HPI (Hire Purchase Information) and Cheshire-based Vehicle Mileage Check.

The scheme will allow Audi dealers to sell models from the competition, so that Jaguar, BMW and Mercedes-Benz models might all now be seen on Audi forecourts for sale under Audi Approved.

The emphasis, however, will be on selling approved Audis, says Terry Slade, the company's marketing programmes manager. "The slant is very much towards used Audis. I wanted to make the treatment of customers in the used side of the business as close to the new as possible. It offers an entry-level price to many people and enables many more to join the Audi club for £8,000 or £9,000 instead of £16,000 for a new car.

"You can expect to buy a K registered Audi 80, a two-litre car with anti-lock braking and all the features, with a 10-year guaranteed galvanised body, for VW Golf money. This is a car which when new might have cost something like £18,000, and which under Audi Approved would sell for a fraction under £12,000.

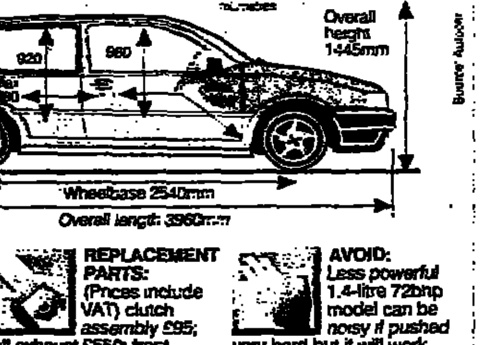
"The scheme should also enable more motorists to drive their 'dream' car, such as a Turbo quattro, that might have cost £35,000 new, but £25,000 used and approved. It means that somebody on a company car budget can get more car for their money, greater perceived value, and drive a car they might have thought unattainable."

Such schemes are not entirely idealistic, of course. Prices for dealer approved schemes are invariably higher than a motorist might pay for a similar vehicle bought privately, and such approved schemes represent what the industry terms a "major new profit centre" for dealerships.

For those seeking to spend £10,000 and more on a prestige used car however, paying a little extra for one that carries a small portfolio of warranties, assurances and checks, might well prove a worthwhile investment.

USED CAR BRIEF

FIAT TIPO
Since it was launched in 1988, around 2 million three and five-door hatchback Tipos, now being replaced by the just-launched Bravo/Brava, have been built. Launched with 1.4 and 1.6-litre petrol engines as well as a *highly-rated 1.9-litre turbo diesel, a non-turbo diesel 1.7 litre arrived in 1988* and a 1.8 petrol in 1990. Uprated suspension plus better sound damping were a feature of the 1992 facelift, followed closely by the arrival of the 2.0-litre 115 brake horse power "hot hatch" GT. Equipment was upgraded and the range revised in 1993. Driver side airbag standard from 1994.



GOOD NEWS: Galvanized steel body has done much to bury the historical perception of Fiats, based upon the sad experience of older drivers, of Fiats as rust-prone cars ideal for the Italian sunshine but ill-suited to Britain's inclement weather.

BAD NEWS: Very early model Tipos should be checked for build quality problems, and while bodywork should be sound, interior trim vulnerable to rattles and breaks. Check front tyre wear. High-mileage, ex-fleet models best avoided, ditto for over-priced Elegenza and Forza special editions.

SAFETY RATING: Department of Transport rates the Tipo ahead of the pre-1990 Escort, Nissan Sunny and Peugeot 309 for safety, on a par with the Rover 200, but inferior to the Vauxhall Astra and VW Golf, and Volvo 300.

REPLACEMENT PARTS: (Prices include VAT) clutch assembly £95; full exhaust £550; front damper £45; rear damper £55; front brakepads £50; alternator £190; starter motor £125; Tyre £30 to £40.

AVOID: Less powerful 1.4-litre 72bhp model can be noisy if pushed very hard but it will work willingly, even if the car is well loaded. Pre-1992 models lack electronic injection and are not as fuel efficient.

INSURANCE: Cover from AA Insurance (0800 444777) on a 1993 1.4ieS costs a 55-year-old professional with full no claims bonus, male or female, living in Winchester, £155 a year fully comprehensive. A 22-year old male, living in South London with one year no claims, pays £1,012, and a similar female pays £908.

PRICES: Expect to pay £1,500 for a 1988 E-reg 1.4 five-door, £2,500 for a 1989 G-reg 1.6DGT five-door, £4,250 for a 1993 K-reg 1.4ieS three-door and £8,000 for a 1994 L-reg 2.0ie 16-valve three-door.

LOOK FOR: Models sold from summer of 1993 which got side-impact door beams together with uprated brakes, power steering, electric front windows and central locking in all models.

OVERALL: Roomy and interestingly styled alternative to the usual Escort and Astra, the Tipo put the company on the road to the "Car Of The Year" Punto. Proof of the Tipo's advanced design lies in the fact that it provides much of the underpinnings beneath the stylish Bravo/Brava replacement.

50 '94 M-REG CARS UNDER £7,000

MODEL	PRICE Sep-95	PRICE Oct-95	Chge
Rover Mini 1300 Sprite	4595	4550	-0.97
Citroën AX 10 Debut 5dr	5095	4995	-1.96
Daihatsu Mira 5dr	4775	4725	-1.04
FSO Caro 1.5 GLXi 5dr	4825	4750	-1.55
Fiat Cinquecento 3dr	4495	4275	-4.89
Fiat Panda 1.0 CLX 3dr	4295	4225	-1.62
Fiat Uno 1.0ie Start 3dr	4995	4795	-4.00
Ford Fiesta 1.1l 3dr	5650	5450	-3.53
Hyundai X2 1.3LS 5dr	5095	4995	-1.96
Lada Riva 1500 E 4dr	3125	3095	-0.96
Lada Samara 1500 GL 5dr	5095	4995	-1.96
Nissan Micra 1.0L 3dr	5695	5595	-1.75
Peugeot 106 1.1XN Graduate 3dr	6095	5975	-1.96
Peugeot 106 1.4XR 3dr	6995	6875	-1.71
Proton 1.3 GE 4dr	5125	5095	-0.58
Proton 1.3 GL Aeroback 5dr	5850	5795	-0.94
Renault 5 Campus Prima 3dr	4595	4525	-1.52
Renault Clio RL 1.2 Prima 3dr	6175	6095	-1.29
Renault Clio 1.9 RL Prima Diesel 3dr	6550	6495	-0.83
Rover Metro 1.1 Quest 3dr	4825	4675	-3.10
Rover Metro 1.1 C 5dr	5250	5275	-0.47
Rover Metro 1.1 S 5dr	6175	5995	-1.29
Rover Metro 1.4 LD 5dr	6650	6595	-0.82
Seat Ibiza 1.3 CL 3dr	5750	5650	-1.73
Skoda Favorit GLXi 5dr	4775	4775	0.00
Skoda Favorit GLXi estate	5375	5425	-0.93
Subaru Vivio GLi 4WD 5dr	5225	5150	-1.43
Suzuki Swift 1.3 GS 3dr	6595	6225	-1.11
Vauxhall Corsa 1.2i Merit 3dr	6095	5850	-4.01
Vauxhall Corsa Merit Diesel 5dr	6475	6325	-2.31
Rover Mini 1.3i Cooper	5750	5675	-1.30
Asia Rocsta	6995	6975	-0.28
Dacia Duster GLX estate	4125	3995	-3.15
Daihatsu Charade 1.3 GSE 3dr	5625	5525	-1.77
Fiat Punto 55 S 5dr	6250	5850	-6.40
Fiat Tipo 1.4ie S 3dr	6275	5950	-5.17
Fiat Tempra 1.6ie S 4dr	6825	6325	-7.32
Ford Fiesta 1.1 LX 5dr	6675	6495	-2.69
Ford Escort 1.3 5dr	6225	6125	-1.60
Kia Pride 1.3 LX 5dr	5450	5375	-1.37
Nissan Micra 1.3 LX 3dr	6650	6550	-1.50
Seat Toledo 1.6 CLi 5dr	6825	6725	-0.73
Subaru Justy SI 3dr	6325	6250	-1.18
Rover Maestro 1.3 Clubman 5dr	5295	5295	0.00
Citroën AX 1.1 Forte	5795	5695	-1.72
Seat Marbella 900 Fun 3dr	3995	3950	-1.12
Ford Fiesta 1.8 L Diesel 3dr	6125	6000	-2.04
Ford Fiesta 1.3i Auto 3dr	6250	5995	-4.08
Vauxhall 1.4 Merit 3dr (60ps)	6975	6725	-3.58
Kia Mentor 1.6 SLX 4dr	6750	6650	-1.48

Prices rounded to simulate actual dealer forecourt prices. HB = hatchback S = saloon. Price changes based on M-reg average mileage cars. Figures supplied by ***CAP Motor Nationwide Research.***

BUYERS should start looking for bargains over the next few weeks as new models elbow aside ageing predecessors, according to CAP Motor Research.

Vauxhall replaces the Cavalier with the Vectra, Peugeot the 405 with the 406, Fiat the Tipo with the Bravo/Brava, while Mercedes swaps its E-class saloons and Ford moves over to a new Fiesta in the next few weeks.

That means there will be plenty of old stock to sell, usually at reduced prices with carmakers anxious to get sales of their new models moving.

Andrew Wilkinson, editorial director of CAP's Black Book guide to used car prices, says: "The motor trade has been preparing for the arrival of these new models for many months, and prices for run-out cars have been continually adjusted accordingly to the point where they are as low now as they are likely to go."

Motorists with a budget of £8,000 to £9,000 looking for a 1995 M-registered car should be spoilt for choice with so many models available.

Wilkinson adds: "The Cavalier and 405 are already far and away best value in the marketplace and will not move again."

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A toy Panhard and a Renault could be sold for £3m, but a boxed Dinky set will fetch rather less, says **Alan Copps**

Picasso and the art of model cars

When a bronze cast of Picasso's *Baboon and Young* comes up for auction in New York next month, Sotheby's confidently expect it to set a new record for a sculpture by the master. Its estimate is between $3.5 million and $5 million (£2.2 million and £3.1 million).

So the chances are very strong that a new record will also be set for a model car. For look carefully at the head of the sculpture and you can see that its face is the front end of a car.

The piece was made in 1951, during the period when Picasso was briefly experimenting with a series of sculptures made from any material that came to hand. *Baboon* incorporates two cars — a Panhard and a Renault — which had been given to Picasso's four-year-old son, Claude.

What the boy thought of this unusual use of his toys is not recorded, but, according to Genevieve Laporte, Picasso's mistress at the time, the image of the baboon had been evoked by the form of a Panhard Dyna, recently bought by another friend. Several sketches by the artist showed how he investigated the best way to incorporate the models into the work.

The original sculpture is in the Picasso Museum in Paris. The one being sold by an anonymous collector was for a long time on display in the Tate Gallery and is one of six bronzes cast by Valsuani of Paris. The animal's bulging belly was formed with a large pottery jar, the shoulders and ears with pottery handles and the tail from another automotive connection, the steel spring from a car.

Picasso was said to have been particularly pleased with this sculpture, referring to it affectionately as "the ancestor". Alexander Apsis, head of Impressionist and modern art at Sotheby's in New York, said last week: "This piece might well set a record. Picasso sculptures are very rare and this has been in the same collector's possession for 30 years. His sculpture is less known than his painting, but it illustrates his tremendous quality of imagination." The record for a Picasso sculpture is $2,750,000 for a 1909 bronze head sold six years ago.

For those who cannot quite run to a Picasso, there are strong signs of life in the more conventional model car market. Enough to raise the hopes of anyone who has a few Dinky or Corgi models tucked away. Vectis Model Auctions will have more than 600 lots on offer next Wednesday at the Civic Hall in Guildford, Surrey.

The star lot is a rare boxed set of five circa 1950 American cars a Packard, Oldsmobile, Lincoln Zephyr, Buick and Chrysler. The set is expected to fetch between £1,500 and £1,750.

Even the most humble Dinky (properly boxed) is expected to fetch upwards of £50, while some single models, even without boxes, could reach very high prices.

A dark green Morris Oxford from the early 1950s could reach up to £750, while another Oldsmobile export model is estimated at £900-£1,000.

Roger Mazillius, of Vectis, which is based at Cowes on the Isle of Wight, says that the model car market has been remarkably resilient through the years of recession but has become much more international.

"In seven seasons our turnover has grown from £200,000 to more than £1 million," he says. "Half of what we now sell at public auctions goes abroad.

"But the public should be aware that the real criterion for a good price is condition, both of the model and the box, if it has one.

"We have one very rare set entered for our November sale which is in perfect condition and is expected to fetch up to £4,000. Yet we sold a similar set earlier this year with a few imperfections for a quarter of that price."

For details: Vectis Model Auctions 01983 282005. Sotheby's 0171-493 8080.

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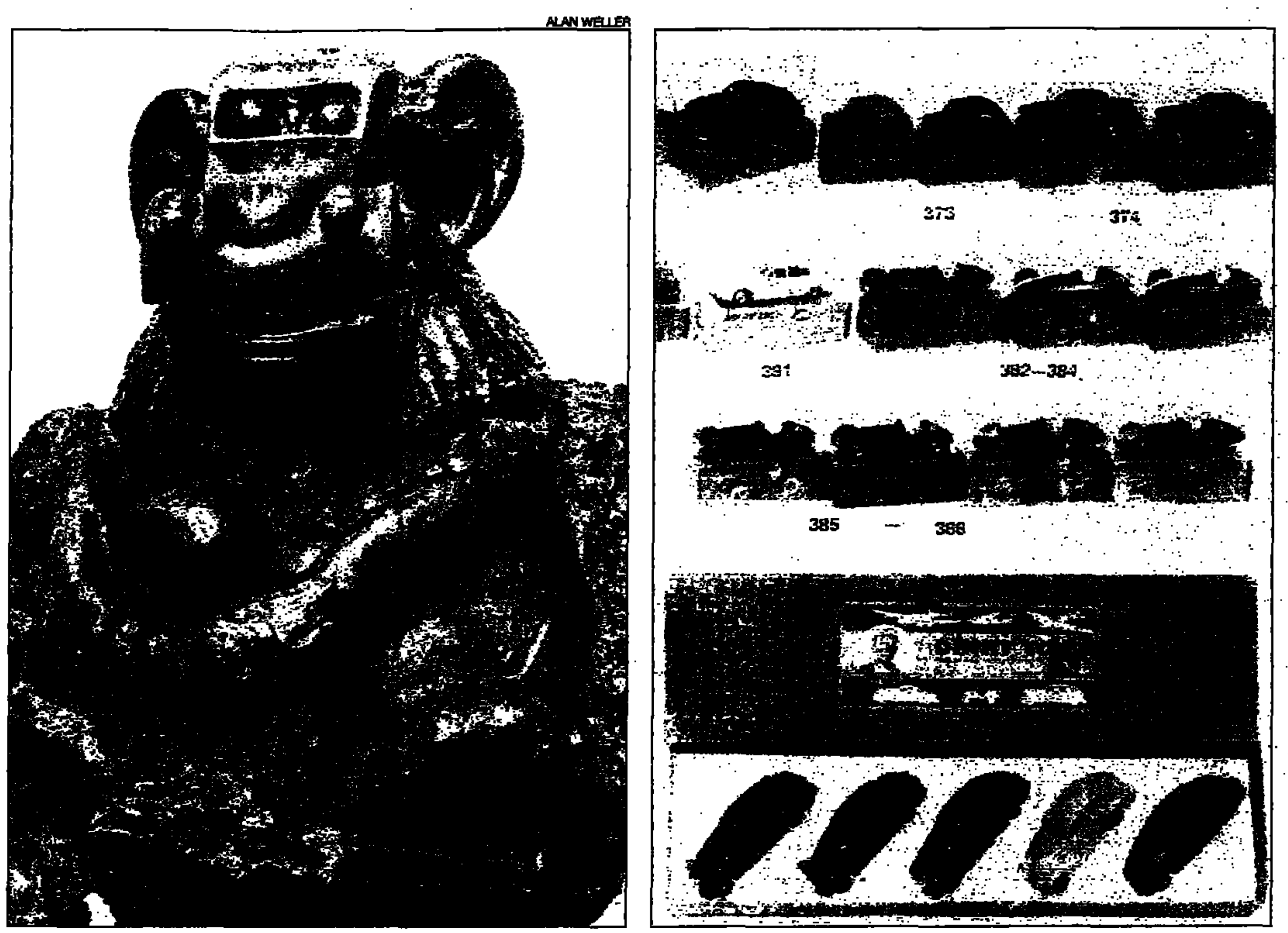

Driven by his art: ***Baboon and Young*** is one of Picasso's rare works of sculpture; mint condition model cars in boxes are almost as hard to find

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Richard Noble (above) will be speaking at a special *Times* forum at the London Motor Show on Wednesday, October 25 at 7.30pm and you can buy tickets which also allow you to get into the show after 5pm. The holder of the current land speed record will be discussing how to design, build and race a car capable of supersonic speed and how he and his team plan to exceed the existing world land speed record.

Richard Noble is leading the Thrust SSC project, a UK bid aimed at achieving a supersonic land speed of 850mph. He will be joined by Andy Green, driver, and aerodynamicist Ron Ayres, designer of the car, which makes its debut at the show.

For tickets, send the form to the address below or telephone the credit card hotline 0171-244 0338 between 9am and 6pm.

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94Mdl 911 Carrera Coupe Tip A/C Black 9T
94Mdl 911 Carrera Coupe Black 5T
94Mdl 911 C4 Coupe Midnight 9T
94Mdl 911 Tip S Cab Silver/Blue 15T
94Mdl 911 RS Midnight, A/C 1T
93L BMW M3 Auto, A/C 13T
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PORSCHE

911 New Turbo 4. N Reg. 350 Mls Silver Air Immob CD E/Spts Sts 17" Alys WTY Mint £94,995. 0181 343 8232a

911 Carrera 2 Coupe. 93 K. White. 16,000 miles. ESR. CD. FPSH. Immac. £36,950. 01704 541414(O) 01704 566499(H)

911 Carrera 1989 F. 88k. FSH. Baltic blue. linen leather. Immaculate £20,950. 01179 734634 or 0831 444616 T

911 CARRERA COUPE (94L)
Aventura green, grey leather, special order black dash/carpets, sports seats, climate control, on board computer. ABD limited slip, 17" alloys, AFN FSH, 30,000 miles
£50,750
Tel 01264 358979
Fax 01264 361701

911 Carrera 2. 92K. Guards Red. Black leather. 30,000 miles FPSH. ESR. Immac. private sale £36,695. 0181 991 1420.

911 Carrera 4 1990 H. 65k miles. FPSH. Black / Black leather. a/c. immaculate. £28,450. Tel. 0181 806 1693.

928 GTS 350 bhp. 92. Guards Red. Light Grey sports lthr Trim. 5 Speed. 41,000 mls. FPSH. P.O.A. 0181 449 9873

911 SC
SPORT COUPE
1982, Grand Prix white. Genuine 31,500 mls. Immobiliser. Immaculate.
£17,995 o.n.o.
01963 440281

911 3.3 Turbo. 1979. White. Martini stripes. Immaculate and unique. £19,500. 01703 642896/ 0836 361588

968 C/Sport. L reg. Black. 19,750 mls. 1 owner. FPSH. many extras, as new. £24,950. 0161 928 9019 or 0831 141 657. (Baby on the way).

CARRERA 4 Cabrio 92 (K) Blk /Blk Hide. Power Hood. A/C. System 1 Alarm. 1 Own 26K FSH £39,950 Two Mills Honda (Cheshire) 0151 339 1771.

CARRERA 2 Cab 1995 Midnight/ Grey leather. Air con. 17" alloys. Sports seats. wind deflector. CD. 4,000 miles. £59,950. 0802 680063.

CARRERA 2 Cabriolet. Guards red/ black hide. many other extras. 56,000 miles. £28,950. Juliana 01491 578688

CUP Alloys. 4 Carrera 17" on 255 Continentals. Straight out of the box. £1895 ono. 01865 880806/ 880762

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H R OWEN Porsche, UK's best buyer of top quality used Porsche. Contact John Walsh on 0836 222949 or John Watson on 0860 338118.

URGENTLY required: 911 Carrera 2, full service history, under 50,000 miles: James Rees (0585) 229496. (01222) 614622.T

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DIESEL 94 DTL 18,500 mls. elec R/W. side/s. Bull/b. etc. £21,750. Priv. 01344 891250

VOGUE SE Auto. 92 K reg. Ardennes Green. Grey leather/elec seats, air con. ABS. sunroof, bull bar. 56,000 miles. VGC. £17,000 ono. Tel: 01394 460816 (W). 01394 461540 (H)

RANGE ROVER

VOGUE SE 3.9 auto. Blue. '92 K reg. 45K mls. a/c. air susp. esr. elec STS. FSH. Immaculate. £21,000. 01707 872 888.

VOGUE SE Auto. 91J. West grey. grey hide. 40,000 mls. 1 own. FSH £17,995. 01273 676555 / 0850 154482 T

94(L) Range Rover Vogue SE (95 Model) Auto Avalon Blue. Granite Hide. 1 Owner. 7,000 Miles. Ext Warranty till May 96 Plus Free Servicing 24 Months/24,000 Miles £28,950. Morrisons of Stirling 01786 811411

RANGE ROVER
(New Shape) 4.6 HSE Auto, March 1995, Epsom Green/granite leather, 12,700 miles, FSH, 2 years remaining Warranty, climate control, air suspension, electric everything.
£39,000
Reading
01734 891898 Eves
0831 301170 Days

MERCEDES

95M SL 280 95M. Azurite. Mushroom Hide. good spec. 10,000 miles. P.O.A. Tel 0191 296 1234.

190 E 2.0 94 White. man. 12,000 mls. alloy wheels. stereo cass. armrests. FMBSH. As new. £15,950 ono. 01923 251742

190E 2.0 Auto ABS. '92. Blk. 66K 1 Own FSH S/R £10,995 01702 470666/0860 111011 T

190E 2.0 Auto Blue Black, ESR. EW. R/C. RHR. 21,000 Miles. FSH £15,995. 01737 356257.t

190D 2.5. 91 J. 48 K. White/ Blue cloth. man. ABS. ESR. EW/wa. FMBSH. Excellent cond. £13,995. Tel: 01271 858430.

190E 2.6 88F Auto. Anthracite. Beige Velour. 1 Owner. 29K £11,995. 01483 283333, 0860 911928

200 TE Oct '89 (G). white. 78K mls. auto. ESR. RPS. FSH. 1 driver/owner. alarm. £11,000. Wimbledon 0181 946 3020.

230 TE 89 G (90 mdl) Auto. 7 seats. abs. esr. ew. Stereo. FSH. 1 n/s lady owner. £12,250. 01793 740247 Eves & w/end

230E 1991 J. auto. 63K mls. pacific blue. FMBSH. EW. ESR. alarm. stereo. alloys. spoiler. 1 owner. Excellent condition. £17,500. 0161 980 2973.

230E '88 auto. metallic. esr. extras. demo + 1 retired owner. FMBSH. 78K. exceptional. £8,950 01993 822004(h) 01484 616811(o)

230CE Coupe Auto. 1992 K. Gold. 10,000 miles. 1 owner. £21,750. Contact Mark Cassidy. Wilsons of Epsom 01372 726391.

230E 90H. Silver. Black Hide. Air Con. Alloys. 82K. Full History. £14,995. 01483 283333. 0860 911928.

230TE 1989 Auto. 69,000 miles. FSH. Sunroof. Alloy Wheels. S/Suspension. Electric Windows. Alarm. £11,500. Tel: 01285 861250. N/C.

230E 89G Auto. Ivory. 1 Owner. 32K. FSH. £11,995. 01483 283333. 0860 911928

230TE Auto Estate. Metallic Green. Air-con. ABS. S/roof. RHR. FMBSH. 1 owner. 39,000 mls. £19,995. (W) 0171 634 5555/ (H) 01883 346588.T

230 TE Auto 1990. abs. elr/ elw. c. lock. alarm. FSH. Willow Green. Exc. cond. £10,995. 01255 421042/ 01255 423409

230 TE auto. F reg. 1989. FSH. ABS. ESR. new tyres. alarm. taxed. MOT. £8,500. Very good condition. 01494 676859.

280 SL 2 dr. sports 1984. hard/soft tops. silver/leather. 90K mls. history. Good condition. Further details & sensible offers. 01429 263331 ext 221.

280SL auto 1985 signal red. 48,000 miles. FSH. alloys. soft/hard tops. cruise. superb. £15,995. Tel: 01703 256871

300TD Auto 1990 H Reg. Arctic White. 7 Seats. 50,800 Mls ESR EW. ABS. Alarm. Service Hist. VGC. £16,995 01772 742012T

300CE K-Reg Blue Black. silver hide. 1own. FMBSH. £21,750. Tel: Autobahn 01865 341515

300D auto. D reg. Grey Met. Tax. s/roof. full elec. cruise. alloys. 180K. 1 owner. FMBSH. £7,750. 0116-289 3066.

300SL 92K. brilliant silver. black leather. rear seat. 8 holes. CD. h/s tops. 22,000 mls. FSH. as new £42,950. MC Garages 01606 350870/0836 222700 T

300SL H-Reg. Almandine. 8 hole alloys. 36,000 miles. FSH. CD player. private plate. cream leather trim. excellent condition. £37,800. 01277 572923.t

300 SL 24v. '91 J. almandine red. met. 8 hole alloys. FSH. air/con. cream leather. excellent condition. £37,995. 0181 303 7240 or 0860 969917.

300SE 91H. Smoke silver/cream hide. h/s. trip. alloys. 27K. 1 Owr. £30,995. Bramshaw 01202 396342

PORSCHE

911 Carrera 4 Coupe '95(M). A/C. 17" alloys. More extras. Iris Blue/Marble Grey. 4,200 miles FSH. £60,995 No Dealers 0860 546146.

911 Carrera Targa Sport '88. SH. red. 88k. immac cond. immobiliser £14,895. 01892 730321 T

968
Sport '94 L, 17,000 mls, private plate, yellow/black, multi CD, FPSH, alarm/immob, always garaged, super car in superb condition.
£27,500.
Tel: 01273 674632.

911 TURBO
Metallic ice blue, 1984, genuine 66,000 miles, 2 owners, present owner 8 years, full history, leather, air con, ESR, alarm/immob. excellent condition.
£19,750.
01625 829938 (H) or 01625 613848 (W).

928 S4 Auto 1987. Marine blue. 1 owner. FSH from new. Full spec. 71K. Excellent condition. £14,950. 01923 826981

944 Turbo '91. 1 owner. 26k mls. FSH. air con. lthr. alloys + all usual Porsche refinements. Immaculate & original cond. £17,995. 01246 724019

944 S2 Cab. J Reg. 12K. Full Hide. Porsche Immobiliser. CD. Alarm. Electric Seats. FPSH. £25,500. 0181 343 8232a

944 Turbo Coupe. '91 J. 250 BHP. 16,500 miles. pristine. Red. Beige leather. alarm / immobiliser. air con. pull out radio cassette. removable sun roof. £21,000. 01689 860 870.

968 Cab 93(L) Horizon Blue/Blue hood. Cobalt part leather. Elec sports seats. 10 stack CD. Alarm + immobiliser. 17" wheels. 12,500mls £35,000. Tel:0191 383 1467.

911 CARRERA
SPORTS COUPE
1989, Red, genuine 35,000 miles. FPSH, alloys, ESR. Superb, £21,950.
Tel: 01243 551091
Private sale no canvassers.

PORSCHE (all model) 1990-96. Tom Hartley buys the best price. 01283 762762 7 days.

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500SL
March 95. Azurite / Mushroom. Full U.K. spec + 8 hole alloys, heated seats, 2,000 miles. £68,995
Private sale (No Dealers).
Tel: 0161 436 7892.
(Business hours only)

C200
Elegance
94 M, Imp red, g/cloth, auto, air con, s/roof, alloys, CD/cassette/radio, 6,500 miles, FSH, immaculate.
£21,950
Tel 01246 566352

SL 500
L reg (1/8/93), Malachite Green/Cream leather. Full M. Benz specification, 8 hole alloys etc. FMBSH. 27,000 miles. £58,500.
Tel: 01268 711280
Weekends,
0181 985 9601
Mon-Fri

320 Cabriolet
March 93, finished in blue/black metallic with charcoal leather interior, 23,000 miles with Full Mercedes Service History, 1 lady owner from new. Private sale.
£38,500
Tel Nottingham
0115 966 4647

هكذا من الارشيف

MERCEDES

300GD G Wagon 92 J Red, black int. 48,000mls FSH £16,950 01925 765322 T

300SL 91H. Signal red/black hide, r/seat, c/c, r/st, 50K, fsh, £37,995. Bramshaw 01202 396342

300 SL White/blue leather 90 H, low mileage, offers. 0171 266 1057 / 0850 161204 T.

300 TE 4 Matic, 1989, Impala/Cream leather, 99,000 miles. FSH, air bags. Almost every extra. New tyres, just serviced. £10,500 o.n.o. Tel: 01360 440 345 (H). 0141 339 4340 (W).

300TD 1990 auto, 7 seats, cc, FMBSH, 6 mths Wngy, White, 95K, superb. £14,750. 01488 880 941 or 0860 229 568.

300 TE 24V. H reg. White, Auto, 8 holes, sun roof, stereo, remote alarm, C/L, ABS, FMBSH. £12,950. 01371 856663.

300TE Auto 1993. Bornite, 7 seats, 8 hole alloys, cruise, 10 stack CD. 48k. FMBSH. £22,000 ono. 01270 589367

300TE Sept 89 G reg. Almandine/black leather, 56k mls. VGC. 1 owner, FSH. £15,500 ono. 01900 602189

320 Coupe, 93K, Beryl/leather, 5 Spd. Auto. Cruise/ER/EW/EM. Twin elec heated seats. a/bags, walnut. c/temp. FE grille, 02 wheels, alarm, FSH. Stunning!! £30,950. No Time Wasters. Paul Flint 01472 382191 (W)

320SL 93L Almandine/cream hide, walnut, 5spd auto 8 holes r/st 14K £27,995. Bramshaw 01202 396342

320 Cabriolet 93. Mid Blue/Cream Hide Ppd Blue. 5 Speed C/R Manual. 21,000mls. £36,995. Wheelhouse 0115 970 5555.

300SL 86D white, h/s/top, 70k, fsh £16,950 Sunningdale mrs 01344 20072/0836 336300 T

420SEL 1989 G. 78k. FSH. green/beige leather, superb vehicle, genuine private sale by self-employed accountant, so please leave a message on my answer phone £11,250. (01832) 280258 Cambs.

500SL 90 G. Met Grey. Grey Hide, demo plus 1 owner, full spec. 70,000 miles with FMBSH, showroom condition. value incl 1 year warranty £18,995. 0115 947 5544.T

500E (91) Pearl Grey, Grey Hide. Good Spec. 34,000 miles. £29,950 Tel: 01772 613114 (T)

500SL 1990H. Silver/Blue Hide. ASR. Air Cond. 8 Holes. Rear Seat. 47,000 miles. Complete history. £45,950. Juliana 01491 578688

500 SEL 91 H. midnight blue. grey lthr int., electric & heated front & rear seats, air con. 73k mls. FSH. excellent condition. £18,625. Tel: 01483 894260

500 SEC, 91/J Auto. FSH. Silver/ Black Hide. Full Spec. 40K mls Excellent Condition £27,000 Vicky 0181 490 4000.

500 SL auto. '89. new shape. 70,000 mls. FSH. lthr seats, hard/soft tops. etc £36,000 01782 577866 office hrs.

500SL 93 series. 30k climate control. Pioneer CD. Powder Blue Met / Magnolia Hide £52,000 01732 834202

500SE 92J Pearl grey/mahgm hide clim f&rear rfs r/c 8 holes infra red locking 30k £42,995 Bramshaw 01202 396342

500SEC 1985 C Auto. diamond blue/grey leather, FSH, full spec. £9,950. 01935 663497/ 0802 288407

500SL '88'. Rear Seat. FSH. Pwr Hood. 62K. Air Bag Etc. £20,950. Tel. 01732 466 613

500SL White. 91H. Burgundy lthr, all extras 39,000 miles. FMBSH immac head turner. £40,950 ovno 0181 505 9438

600 SEL 1988, 4 elec seats, met blue. 120k. FSH as new £9 995 01932 248760/0589 399220 T

600 SEC 91 Silver/ black lthr. Ultra Spec 38K FSH £28,950 01283 762762 Tom Hartley

C280 Sport 94 M. auto. Silver. AMG alloys bumpers & skirts air con. elb. headlamp wash-wipe. vanity mirrors. Sony Multiplay CD, esr & elec rear windows, rhr remote alarm 16,000 mls. pristine condition £27,895. 01629 605573 (W) or 01494 488241 (H)

C36 AMG N. blue black met, black lthr interior + extras. Below list price. 0181 940 0782 (wkends) or 0973 225940.

C200 Elegance M 94 Auto. Smoke silver, cream leather, air con. alloys RHR OTG. CD. remote alarm. 9k mls. immaculate. £24,950. 0181 868 7023/ 0378 868164

C220 diesel Auto Elegance. smoke silver/black cloth. r/cass. Mar 95. 4k mls. £22,750 01329 310952

C 220 Elegance Auto. '94, CGSR stereo. alarm. nautic blue. 7,000 mls. FMBSH. 1 owner Pvte £21,950. 0181 660 2660

C180 Elegance auto. 95. Midnight. ESR. immob. 2 x Air bag. RHR. WTY. FMBSH Mint. £20,000 0181 543 8252

C180 Elegance Auto. Brilliant Silver + extras. only 7 990 miles. Mint condition. £19,950. 01473 720670.

C220 D Elegance 95 Auto Black etc 8,000m £20,950 01283 762762 TH. 7 Days

E320 A 94M. met blue/black. 15k mls. climate. extras superb. £11k under list £31,495 o n o 01723 361167

E220 Automatic L Reg. 1 owner 9,000 miles Met Grey Sunroof. Alloys As new £19,950 Tel: 01932 223377 Surrey.

E220 automatic, M reg. 14,000 miles, R/C. OTG alloy. Almandine Red £21,950 Tel: 01332 295054 or 0860 542852

E220 Cabriolet. reg 11/94. silver. grey leather upholstery. 8 hole alloys. 22,000 miles. £32,000 0860 476008 / 01536 634247 T

E320 Coupe 94M. Met Blue/Grey Hide. Climate Cntrl. 8 Hole CD. £39,995 Wheelhouse 0115 970 5555.

E320 Coupe 94M. Met Blue/Grey Hide Climate Cntrl. 8 Hole. CD. £39,995 Wheelhouse 0115 970 5555

E320 Coupe 96M Almandine mush hide 5spd A s/line 8ha bim r/ster 9,600mls £39,995 Bramshaw 01202 396342

E200 Estate Auto 95 M Met Black. Grey Cloth 1 owner. 7 seater. 17" Momo alloys & tyres. 10,000 miles. Merc Warranty just serviced. £24 995. 0115 947 5544.T

E220 94 L Auto Only 12,000 miles White Navy cloth Alarm. Walnut ABS ESR FSH £21,600 0171 722 7422

MERCEDES (all mods) 1990-96 Tom Hartley pays the best price 01283 762762 7 days

XJ6 3.2 Auto 91H Racing Green/ '' lthr r/roof 48,000 FSH 1 own £10 950 Duncan Hamilton Ltd 01256 765000

SL 280 96 Smoke. Mushroom Hide. 8 Holes. R Seat. 3T. £56,000 Pentagon 01934 641616

500 SL
Nautic Blue Metallic.
1990 H Reg. 17" 8 Hole Alloys. Air conditioning. ASR. Grey leather interior with rear seats. 51,500 miles. FSH. Cruise control.
£42,000
Private sale.
Tel: 0161 902 9443

500 SL
K Reg, Feb 1993.
36,000 miles. Metallic Silver/Black Hide.
Air con. Rear Seats.
Cruise Control. FMBSH.
May consider PX.
£49,950
Tel: 01482 847718
Mob: 0589 845142

500SL
92K, blue black, cream leather, 27k mls, 8 hole alloys, CD player, air con, rear seat, etc.
£55,950
01494 728627 (eves & wkends)/
0850 603735

SL 280
June 94, 10,500 miles, Silver / Blue leather, rear seats, 8 hole alloys, CD, FMBSH.
£47,900.
Tel. 01920 464 367.

300 SL
Jan '87. metallic diamond blue. pale grey interior. 41,000 mls. EW, ABS, FMBSH. alloys. hard & soft tops, alarm, always garaged. excellent genuine car. Nearest £19,275 secures.
Tel: 01785 662047.

230CE
AUTO.
Dec 89. 2 owners.
Black/black int., alloys, ABS, ESR, rad/cass, 81k mls, service hist., excel cond.
£14,000
0181 364 3078

600SEL V12
Jan 93, 2 owners, Mercedes Service History, 63,600 miles, Black Metallic, grey leather, electric seats, twin airbags, cruise control, air conditioning, Becker Music System etc
£49,995
Dixon Trade Centre,
Clarence Street, Hull.
Tel: 0831 608323

300 CE
1991, 22,000 mls, pearl blue metallic, cloth trim, ESR, electric seats, orthopaedic driver's seat, alloy wheels, Scorpion alarm, FMBSH, Pristine condition. 11 months MOT. Chairman's car
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or 0378 162827.

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MAYFAIR
500 SEC
Blue Black/Mushroom Leather, High Specification, 1 Owner, Only 12,000 miles £59,995
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95M C180 Eleg Dark Blue 4T £21,950
95M C180 Esprit Imperial Red ..6T £18,950
94M C280 Eleg Azurite Blue ...10T £22,950
95M C220 Eleg Almandine Red .7T £26,750
95M C220 Sport Blue Black ...11T £23,950
94M C250D Classic Smoke Silver .8T £21,750
95M C280 Eleg Blue Black, Lthr 13T £33,950
92K 260E Red 46T £20,000
95M E280 Silver 9T £28,950
95M E280 Onyx Grey 11T £28,950
95M E220 Coupe Blue Black ..10T £32,500
95M E320 Coupe Tourmaline ..12T £44,950
94M E36 AMG Brilliant Silver ...18T P.O.A
94M E320T Brilliant Silver 13T £28,250
94M E320T Silver, H/Spec 17T £44,950
89K 300TD Rosewood 42T £22,950
94L E320 Cabrio Nautic Blue ...5T P.O.A
93J 300SE Smoke Silver 29T £35,250
94M S280 Pearl Blue 8T £43,950
93L 500SEL B/Black, Hi Spec .35T £57,950
0181 560 2151 AFTER HOURS 0831 812245

92K 190E 1.8 Brilliant Silver ...12T £14,950
94M C180 Eleg Brilliant Silver .11T £20,950
94M C180 Eleg Azurite Blue ..17T £20,250
95M C180 Sport Blue Black ...6T £22,950
95M C200 Eleg Blue Black £23,500
94M C200 Eleg Polar White ...14T £22,500
95M C200 Eleg Pearl Blue 12T £22,950
95M C200 Sport Azurite Blue ..12T £23,950
95M C220 Sport Azurite Blue ...9T £24,950
95M C220D Esprit Yellow .18T £18,950
95M E200 Tourmaline 7T £22,500
94L E200 Polar White 14T £19,750
95M E280 Est Brilliant Silver ..10T £25,750
95M E220 Smoke Silver £24,500
95M E280 Blue Black 12T £31,950
93K 320E Almandine 33T £24,950
95M E320 Brilliant Silver 13T £34,950
95M S500 Azurite Blue 12T £51,950
94M SL280 Imperial Red 2T £49,950
95M SL320 Azurite Blue 1T £59,950
92K 500SL Crystal Green 13T £56,950
0181 205 1212 OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK AFTER HOURS 0850 792593

94L C180 Eleg Silver 8T £19,450
95M C200 Eleg Almandine Red .14T £23,950
94L C220 Esprit Pearl Blue ..25T £21,950
94L C220 Sport Blue Black ...48T £21,450
91H 190E 2.0 Smoke Silver ...45T £12,750
92K 190E 2.0 Dark Blue ...38T £14,950
92K 190E 2.0 Smoke Silver ...21T £15,450
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95M E280T Azurite Blue, A/C 11T £35,950
95M E220 Cpe Tourmaline, A/C 5T £32,950
92J 300SE White 36T £19,950
92J 500SE Blue Black 45T £39,950
95M S420L Smoke Silver ...25T £55,950
93K 500SEL Black 28T £49,350
91H 500SEC Blue Black .45T £29,950
93K 600SEC Brilliant Silver .29T £67,500
87D 300SL Diamond Blue ..43T £20,950
88F 300SL Signal Red ...47T £24,950
91H 500SL Pearl Blue ..37T £43,950
92J 500SL White 36T £53,950
93K 500SL Black 36T £59,950
0193 228811 SUNDAY 0831 162429

90G 500SL Nautic Blue, Mushroom Leather, Auto, Air Con, Rear Seat, Electric Seats, Heated Seats, Cruise, EW's, ABS, ASR, Alloys, Airbag, Radio/CD, FSH, 24T, £47,995. Tel: Caffyns Plc Dorchester 01305 264494 or 0374 998062

94L E320 Coupe Nautic Blue, Cream Leather, Auto, Air Con, Sportsline Suspension, ABS, Cruise, ESR, EW's, HLWW, IVM, R/C, One Owner, FSH, 19T, £39,995. Tel: Caffyns Plc Dorchester 01305 264494 or 0374 998062

230 CE A 1990H Malachite green/Cream spt line cloth Walnut FCA 8 Holes 2,000 miles £23,500 Cruickshank 0117 966 9331

500SEC '91 'J', signal red, lthr, total spec, 58,000m £31,500. Tel: Mertrux (01332) 290290.

C200 Classic, '95 'M', pearl blue, auto, 7,000m £22,995. Tel: Mertrux (01332) 290290.

E280 '95 'M', tourmaline, stereo etc., 6,000m. £29,995. Tel: Mertrux (01332) 290290.

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Dress designer David Emmanuel tells **Andrew Pierce** why he would shoot Papa and Nicole

MARTIN BEDDALL

David Emmanuel: "We need more road signs. I heard of one tourist heading for central London who ended up in Guildford"

From tractors to chic dreams of Paris

STEERING COLUMN

David Emmanuel has dressed some of the world's most beautiful women. His clients include the Duchess of Kent, Jane Seymour, Joan Collins, Faye Dunaway and Elizabeth Taylor. In 1981 he became an instant household name when he co-designed the wedding gown of the Princess of Wales. Emmanuel, who has established his own label, David Emmanuel Couture, sees clients by appointment only.

On Tuesday, Emmanuel, who has worked with photographers such as David Bailey, Lord Snowdon and Earl Lichfield, presents the first of a 10-week series, *Designed by Emmanuel*, on HTV.

How did you first learn to drive?

On a tractor during summer holidays in Somerset on my uncle's farm. I manouevred in and out of hay barns.

What was your first car?

A purple MGB GT. I had to give it up when my son, Oliver, came along. It was fine as a bachelor, but not much use when you had sterilising kits bulging out of the car.

What car do you drive now, and why?

A Black Volvo Estate 940 series. It's perfect to ferry two teenagers to and fro, and easily accommodates the hanging bags for my evening gowns for fashion shoots. It comes into its own when I take the kids to boarding school: they have very large school trunks.

Do you like driving?

Yes, particularly at night, especially in London. There is no traffic and the lights look great.

What is your dream car?

A black Citroën Maserati. In my dream I drive it around Paris. It has chic Citroën styling and a wonderful Maserati engine. Only a handful were made. I had the privilege of seeing one. In Paris. It was love at first sight.

What is your most hated car?

Bubble-shaped moulded cars and faded orange flourescent three-wheelers. They are unsafe and terribly nasty.

What is your worst habit in the car?

A failure to tolerate Sunday afternoon drivers. I live in Windsor, where we have more than our fair share en route for the castle. They are a menace and send my blood pressure soaring.

What is the most unusual thing you have done in your car?

I drove to Wales with Helena Bonham Carter, a hairdresser, make-up artist, my personal assistant and a dozen hanging bags full of frocks for a photographic session at a castle. An American tourist drove into my car. No one was injured, although he looked a gibbering wreck. But the American's tiny hired car was a write-off. The only damage to my Volvo estate was a broken sidelight. Since then I have sworn by the Volvo.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

When they drive at night with their full headlights pointing directly into my eyes. Drivers on the M4 are the worst culprits.

Have you ever had points on your licence?

Yes, but my lips are sealed. It's all too embarrassing.

What do you listen to in the car?

Classic FM and Maria Callas. If my daughter, Eloise, has been in the car, I have to remove a Blur or Oasis CD first.

If you were Secretary of State for Transport, what is the first thing you would do?

Fund more road signs in London. God knows how tourists cope. It's bad enough for them that they have to drive on the left, without having any idea of where they are going. I heard of a tourist heading for a spot in central London who ended up in Guildford.

What is your favourite car advertisement?

The Volvo one. I know I would say that, but it is moody and creative. The art director would be perfect on a fashion shoot. And I would personally shoot Nicole and Papa. I still don't know what car they are advertising.

Renault have really tried; **Kevin Eason** is underwhelmed

Most agreeable, but it's John Major on wheels

Comfy, but dull: Lots of gadgets, but where's the thrill?

There came a moment after about 500 miles of steady cruising when the question had to be asked: Why? Some cars are little runabouts, some are sensibly medium-sized and some are executive look-at-me-I've-got-one-bigger-than-you swanky machines. I'm not exactly sure what the Safrane is.

It is bigger than its mid-range sister model, the Laguna (but not enough to make a difference), yet much smaller than a BMW 5-series or Vauxhall Omega. Although it has a diesel engine, it is no more frugal than most big petrol-driven executive saloons.

So why did Renault bother? The question is all the more baffling after a check down Renault's revitalised range, from the charming Clio up to the Laguna, which is such a refreshing change from much of the medium-range competition in the showrooms right now. The Safrane sits uneasily at the top of the pile, however, without any discernible identity, a John Major of motoring; you know, nothing you could take offence at, sort of nice but a bit grey and dull.

Renault has tried to put some spark into the car — really, really, *really* tried. The 2.5TD only comes in an "executive" version, so the Bridge of Weir leather trim is standard (and very comfy it *is* too). And there is air-conditioning, speed-sensitive power steering, on-board computer (so you can calculate how far you have to go, how much diesel you have left and how *hot/cold* it is outside), cruise control and an automatic gearbox, 60-watt hi-fi, wooden fascia trim and door cappings and electric tilt-and-slide sunroof.

So I settled into the comfy driver's seat, surrounded by my gadgets, and set off on a long weekend run to Paris and back. Halfway down the autoroute, I realised I was bored; the car had made almost no impact on my consciousness. Maybe that is a good thing and means that the Safrane was busy doing its job, the diesel thrumming away while the car bundled along at a steady 75mph.

But somehow it felt like a cheat. We are talking £20,000 worth of car here — two Ford Escorts, nearly four Fiat Cinquecentos. Where was the £20,000 thrill of the open road, the marvelling at the fuel consumption, the fascination of the technology? There was nothing, no emotion at all.

Admittedly, loaded with three children and a bootful of luggage, fuel consumption was not particularly spectacular — I got about 450 miles from the 17.6-gallon tank, around 25 to the gallon — the performance not particularly thrilling and the car a little noisy all round for a model supposed to attract buyers who will have BMWs, Mercedes and top Vauxhalls and Fords in their sights.

Quite honestly, for the price of the Safrane executive turbo-diesel, you could buy a Laguna, enjoy the driving more and still have plenty of change left for a second-hand family runabout, a night at the cinema and fish and chips and two pints on the way home.

RENAULT SAFRANE 2.5TD

Price: £19,910.

Engine: 2.5-litre, 12-valve, four-cylinder with turbo-charger developing 115 brake horse power through four-speed automatic gearbox.

Performance: 0-60mph in 13.7 seconds; top speed 118mph; fuel consumption 49.7 miles to the gallon at constant 56mph, 37.3mpg at 75mph and 25.3mpg in town.

Insurance Group: 13.

Equipment: Airbags are 50-litres on driver's side (instead of usual 35) and extra-sized 100-litres on passenger's side to take account of different seat positions. Anti-submarining front and rear seats, immobiliser, volumetric alarm.

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ASK 200, 844 AW, [illegible], DRC 48, EFR 2, JTL 28, 219 KR, 888 PL, 864 RH, SFR 77, A11 TED, [illegible]
[illegible]
7 CKB, 11 FE, 25 FH, 18 GJ, 53 JAS, 21 LA, 27 MAY, 15 NF, 3 OAK, 40 REG, SEP 4, TAL 9, TSR 4
[illegible]
15 AA, 33 AG, 18 BG, 48 BJ, 30 CG, 59 CL, 2 DLS, 5 DOC, 18 E, 4 GBS, 15 GE, 5 GTE, 8 HA, 3 HD, 7 HE, 53 JAB, JEB 3, 9 KR, 3 LK, 15 NF, 2 PAK, 3 RAM, 10 RE, 2 REC, 18 SO, 2 TAP, TEB 2, 48 TM
[illegible]
77 CB, 2 CN, 4 DA, 22 DES, 33 DR, 10 EK, 8 FR, 8 FY, HAS 2, 8 HG, JT 67, 759 L, 2 LN, 35 MR, 36 MW, 12 RH, 58 RS, 18 RT, SB 72, 5 SE, 7 SYD, 4 TK, 2 TL
[illegible]
8 AN, 2 AR, 6 AT, 8 B00, 6 BR, 21 CB, 6 CR, 18 D, 5 ED, 2 ER, GEM 4, 10 JO, 4 OAK, 7 SA, 2 TP, 5 TR, POA, A 74, 2 DG, 1 OU, FIRST, 5 RM, T 89, 11 U, [illegible]
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[illegible]

Alan Copps explains how a word in your ear from Trafficmate can save a great deal of hassle on the motorway

A step in the right direction

Nothing is calculated to annoy the average motorist more than a back seat driver, that irritating voice droning away with superfluous information. But a new voice which can now be heard on Britain's motorways is likely to get a warmer welcome.

For what it lacks in tone it makes up for in useful information, warning drivers of delays within a range of ten miles with data that is updated every three minutes and is delivered before the motorist reaches the point of no return at the start of a slip road.

Trafficmate is a little plastic box that sits on the dashboard and talks in the strangulated, electronic tones of a speak-your-weight machine. But what it says could save drivers hours of frustration and companies thousands of pounds. It is the handiest of an increasing number of in-car information and navigation systems.

According to a survey carried out by Mori for the makers of Trafficmate, the average frequent driver spends five working days of each year stuck in traffic jams on work-related journeys alone. The knock-on effect on home life was one of the biggest concerns of drivers questioned. More than half said they had been late home as the result of such delays and 30 per cent admitted getting angry as a result of hold-ups.

It is estimated that companies lose 1.2 billion man hours a year as a result of congestion, with the cost to the economy exceeding £15 billion.

Trafficmate, claimed to be the first mass market product of its kind, is designed to cut down on all this emotional and financial aggravation. It was launched this week by Trafficmaster, the Milton Keynes-based company which has been given a 12-year licence by the Department of Transport to develop electronic information systems along Britain's roads. It uses a network of 2,400 sensors which monitor conditions every two miles throughout the national motorway system.

These infra-red detectors mounted on bridges check the speed of traffic passing below, and when it drops to less than 30mph they send a radio signal to Trafficmaster's control room in Milton Keynes. The information is then instantly sent out to 1,500 transmitter stations sited on the approaches to and along the length of the motorways.

Each transmitter has a unique identity code and is able to filter all information relevant to its position and within a ten-mile or two-junction range, whichever is the greater. When a car with a Trafficmate passes one of these transmitters, the information, preceded by a note of the vehicle's position, is automatically passed on and the dashboard unit converts the message into speech which is broadcast to the user.

On the approach road the information broadcast will include delays or congestion in all directions, so the motorist can, if necessary, simply turn away to take another route. Once on a motorway, when the car passes a second transmitter the system identifies its direction of travel and subsequent broadcasts will be relevant only to the route ahead, thus relieving the driver of the need to filter out unnecessary information.

The system has been tested around the M25, and by early next month will be on stream throughout the motorway network. It complements the screen-based YQ system introduced by Trafficmate earlier this year. That gives a bird's-eye view of traffic flow on the motorway network and on more than 400 miles of other trunk roads, enabling a driver to plan a journey in advance by choosing the least congested route. The YQ screen can be mounted in a car to deliver information en route.

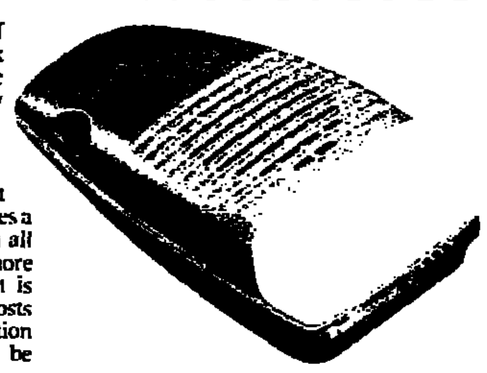
Trafficmate costs £49.99 from high street shops. It comes with an information key which is valid for 12 months. At the end of that period, a replacement key costs £24.

Trafficmaster customer care line: 01908 249808.

CHRIS HARRIS

Warning voice: From your dashboard, Trafficmate is linked to 2,400 sensors that monitor Britain's motorways

WIN A TRAFFICMATE



Trafficmaster is offering readers of *CAR 95* the opportunity to win six sophisticated YQ portable strategic planning systems and 20 of the new Trafficmate units. The prizes will come complete with 12-month information keys.

The screen-based YQ system is meant for drivers who face tight schedules. It gives a bird's-eye view of the traffic situation on all the national motorway network and more than 400 miles of other main roads. It is priced at £149.99. Trafficmate usually costs £49.99 including a 12-month information key. Further 12-month keys can then be bought for £24.

All you have to do is answer the three questions below and send them on a postcard to: *CAR 95, c/o Trafficmaster plc, Marlborough Court, Sunrise Parkway, Milton Keynes MK14 6DX.*

1 How many man hours are lost each year through traffic congestion?
a) More than 10 million b) more than 100 million c) more than a billion.

2 What is the estimated cost to industry of congestion each year?
a) £15 billion b) £25 billion c) £5 billion.

3 How many miles of motorway are there in the United Kingdom?

The first correct card drawn will win a YQ system and a Trafficmate. The next five will win a YQ system and 19 others a Trafficmate. Normal Times competition rules apply.

DR DASHBOARD

Totally stuck in the jam

Q **Is there no way out of this road hell? We have wasted hours this week in traffic jams with no way of knowing how long we would be there or how to release ourselves from the misery.**

A You are unhappy, aren't you? No wonder, as experts estimate that the average sales representative loses around £1,720 of company money annually sitting in traffic jams. So try arming yourselves against jams or planning your routes more carefully. There is probably an alternative available — but you have to know where it is and when you will need it.

Q **We listen to the radio, but broadcasts that come on the hour are often too late to help.**

A So you need a radio with RDS EON. The Radio Data System intercepts local radio broadcasts giving out urgent information for the area in which you are travelling. But the information is gathered traditionally by police and breakdown patrolmen out on the road, so reports can be outdated.

Q **That's no use when you are out and about all day. Is there no high-tech answer in the shops?**

A Not yet. Trafficmaster is the only company with a full-time service constantly measuring traffic flows. That only works for motorways at the moment, although tests are underway on an urban system. In the city you need serious guidance ... satellite guidance, in fact.

Q **Explain. Can we get satellite guidance for our cars now? And, more to the point, how much will it cost?**

A The answers are: Not yet and quite a lot. Systems being tested use global positioning system (GPS) satellites which can track the car's location and send a signal to a dashboard computer which then pinpoints the position on a digitised map. Unfortunately, there are no effective digitised maps available outside of Japan yet, but they are coming in the next couple of years. When they do, the car will be able to tell you to turn off onto a new route. Cost could be £1,500-£2,000.

Q **Is there nothing a little less exotic and expensive available now?**

A Quite a number of systems, but most are little more than electronic route-finders. Using information on discs or data cards, they allow you to call up a route and let the computer suggest the best way. Philips is selling a hand-held version which will slip into the pocket but which has information on 38,000 destinations in Britain.

Q **Good. How much is that and will it help us avoid these dreadful traffic jams?**

A There is bad news and fairly awful news. The Routefinder is £199.99 and no, it will not help you out of traffic jams. It will provide you with alternative routes, giving a road-by-road and junction-by-junction guide which shows on a liquid crystal display screen. It can also give details of obstacles, such as low bridges, or suitable towing routes and calculate the cost per mile — or kilometre in these metric days. But you will still need to listen to RDS broadcasts to be forewarned of what is ahead.

Q **The doctor does not hold out much hope. Where does that leave us?**

A At a guess, sitting in a traffic jam with your nose deep in one of those horrendous folding maps that you can open but never close neatly again.

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MULSANNE Turbo, 85, Garnet/Mag. 97,000 miles, FSH, Twin Head Conv, alloys. £11,950 o.n.o. Tel: 01360 440 345 (H), 0141 339 4340 (W)

PHANTOM 5 1967 H.J. Mulliner / Park Ward. Interesting History. 0033 41 54 13 66.

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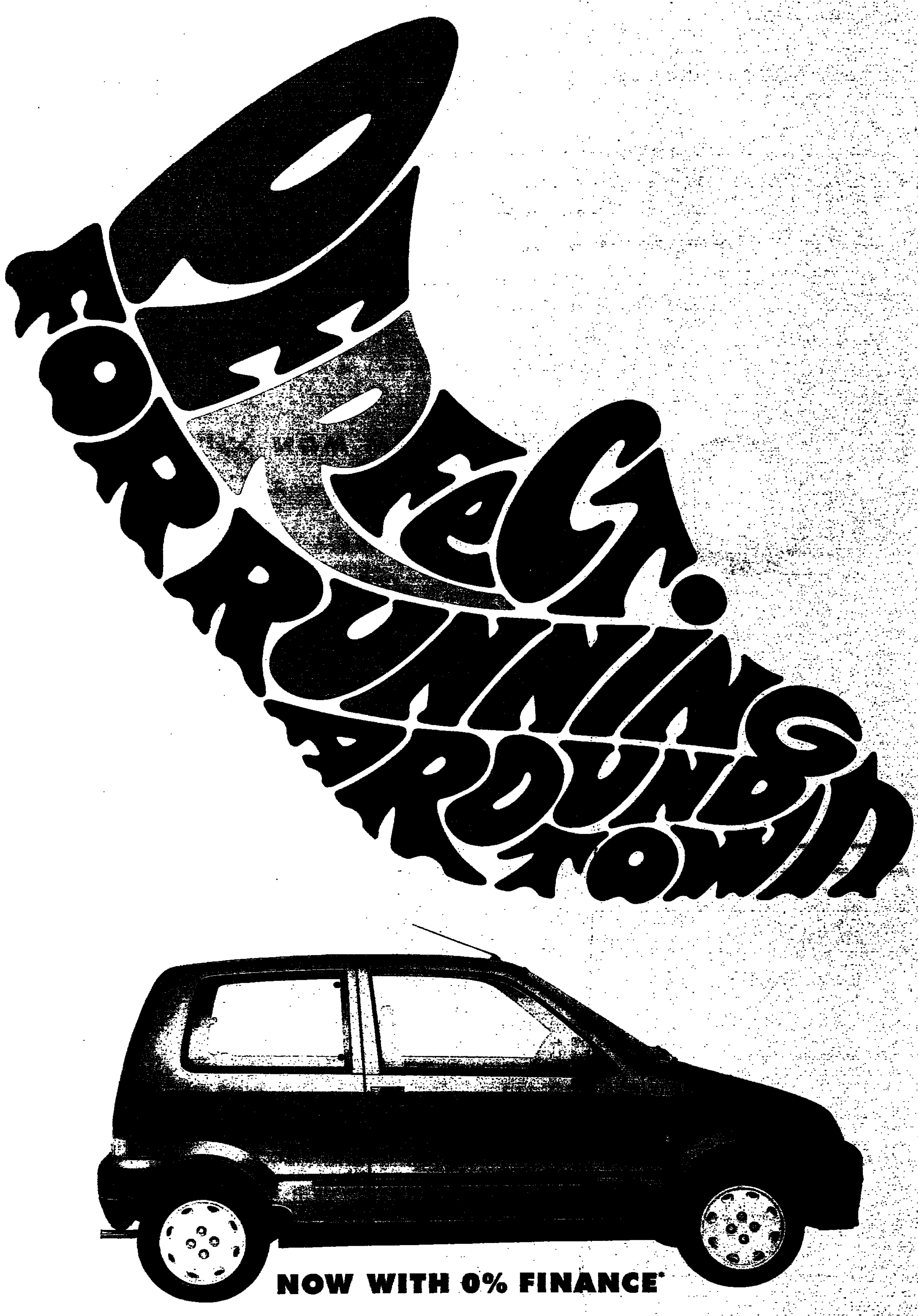
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